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Savvy Times™

ISSUE 36, AUGUST 2012

PARELLI IN **COSTA RICA**

LONDON **ON THE HORIZON**

NATURAL **HORSEMANSHIP** & WESTERN PERFORMANCE

WHAT HORSENALITIES™ TEACH US





ParelliTM Summit

PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO • SEPTEMBER 7-9 2012



It's a crisp September morning, you're sipping a hot cup of coffee, and you're surrounded by thousands of other Parelli members in the Big Top, eagerly waiting for the show to begin. The excitement is palpable. Just as you glance down at your watch to check the time, a roar erupts from the crowd all around you. Pat and Linda enter to raucous applause, and once the crowd has settled down a bit, they take you through what you're going to watch, hear, and learn over the next three days. You're going to see demonstrations from Pat, Linda, Kalley, Parelli Professionals, and a special guest or two. Are you ready...?

DEMOS TOPICS:

Checklist for Performance – Pat Parelli & Ryan Rose

Pat is then joined by Ryan Rose, a 4 Star Parelli Professional and protégé, to run you through a checklist for performance. As Pat says, "Green on green makes black and blue," so Pat and Ryan are going to make sure you are no longer green by the time you begin thinking about performance.

Advanced Game of Contact – Linda Parelli

Join Linda as she takes you through the Advanced Game of Contact. She's taken this course worldwide throughout 2012, and as it makes its American debut, you'll be in the stands to catch every minute! Designed for students who are working in Stage 3 and improving to Stage 4.

Demo w/ Multiple Horses – Kalley Krickeberg

If you've attended a Parelli Horse & Soul Tour stop this year, you've probably seen Kalley's breathtaking demos with multiple horses. Well, Kalley is bringing her talents – and her horses – to Colorado!

Driving Demo – Nate Bowers

Nate Bowers will teach you the habits and skills you'll need to prepare you and your horse for driving. Not planning on doing any driving? That's just fine – these skills will set you up for success, no matter your horsemanship interests!

Teaching Your Horse to Hunt the Jump – Amy Bowers

More info coming soon!

Advancing Liberty w/ Multiple Horses – Kalley Krickeberg

Master Horse Developer Kalley Krickeberg will display the intricacies of playing with multiple horses at Liberty, be it 4 horses, or Kalley's record of 14 horses! Like conducting a symphony – herd dynamics, Horsenalties, spirit levels and finding a happy medium between horses all contribute to the dance with a herd.

Set Fire to the Rein – Kalley Krickeberg

Kalley Krickeberg and her reining horse Lauren will show you how foundation and sport-specific training gracefully intertwine through all Four Savvys in this energizing spotlight.

Advanced Rider Biomechanics – Colleen Kelly & Linda Parelli

Colleen and Linda have collaborated on an educational DVD set and now they're teaching it directly to you! They will take you through fascinating demonstrations on posture, straightness, stirrup length, and much more.

Performance Demo – Marion Oesch

More info coming soon!

Long Reining and Carriage Driving Master – Clay Maier

More info coming soon!

Riding a Performance Horse – Pat & Caton Parelli

Pat's interest in the Western Performance sports is no secret, so you won't want to miss this engrossing, entertaining and educational session. In addition, Pat will be joined by his son Caton for an absolutely unforgettable father & son demo. Bring your tissues!

Flag Tribute – Kalley Krickeberg

Kalley Krickeberg, a former firefighter, will once again share a breathtaking display of patriotism to kick off the third and final day of this year's Summit. This tribute to the United States of America will no doubt bring the entire crowd to its feet.

Jumping Demo – Linda Parelli & Marion Oesch

Jumping is one of the most exciting maneuvers you and your horse can perform together. Linda will be joined by Marion Oesch to articulate, demonstrate and educate the finer points of jumping.

Lead Change Ladder – Pat Parelli

Lead changes don't need to be complicated or intimidating. Watch and learn as Pat shares his simple-yet-provocative lead change and gait secrets with you. You'll emerge from this segment with a clear understanding of the dynamics of lead changes and the tools and techniques to replicate the results Pat shows you.

Humanity – Patrick Handley

Special Friday evening session, more info coming soon!

Schedule/topics subject to change.



Tickets on sale now!

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Parelli In Costa Rica

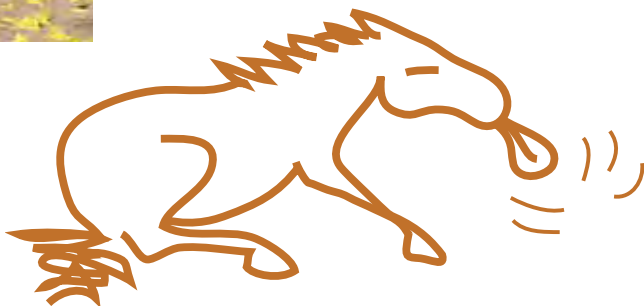
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Huge thanks to all the members of our worldwide team, who do their best to be "the best me that they can be" every day. We value their commitment to supporting horse lovers worldwide in whatever way they can.

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Cover photo courtesy of Andrea Wady from "A New Approach to Horse Tours: Parelli in Cost Rica," pg. 30



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PARELLI FAMILY UPDATE:

Colleen Tekamp, Alix Cammarola, Brittany Corcoran and Sherril Lowe have joined our Parelli Central team.

Molly Sanders has moved on to Ft Collins, CO to continue on her horsemanship journey with Parelli Professional Amy Bowers.

Parelli Professionals Christi Rains and Lyla Cansfield have earned their Game of Contact teaching certification.

Amanda d'Emery is now the Parelli Tour and Events Manager.

Stephen McCurry has made the decision to move on in pursuit of the next step in his journey.

Dear Friends,

As we left Florida for the season, we headed to Ohio for our Horse and Soul event; from there, it was on to Colorado for the summer. It's been a wonderful tour so far – City of Industry, Puyallup, and Columbus being the latest stops. It's great to see you all, and as always I love to hear how much progress you are making with your horse. The most heartwarming of all is hearing those words, "Parelli saved my horse." I can't tell you how much that means to us... thank you so much for putting your trust in the program.

New ponies!

If you follow me on Parelli Connect, you are well aware that my stable of horses has grown somewhat in the past couple of months, with the additions of Highland, Na'vi and Zen! It's so exciting because it's been about 20 years since I've been able to devote half a day to my horsemanship, and now I've got a whole new bevy of ponies as the next generation of Parelli stars.

Highland is my Left-Brain Extrovert 4-year-old Holsteiner (Warmblood) gelding that I found in Germany. It's an extraordinary story and I hope you go to his wall and read all about it. I think it was absolutely meant to be. He is a very talented mover, amazing jumper (he's jumping out of his pasture almost every day!) and has the most charming nature. That's the part I didn't expect, as he was pretty wired up when they were showing him to me. Of course, the fact that he was virtually un-trainable is why I had a shot at getting a horse of this caliber in the first place! I look forward to you meeting him some day soon!

Na'vi is my beautiful 3-year-old Left-Brain Introvert Trakehner (Warmblood) filly - my first mare! She's like a feminine version of Remmer. She came to me via a dressage rider, Erin, who I was helping with tension issues in her lovely stallion. Both Erin and her mother breed Trakehners in Lake City, Florida. Erin especially focuses on performance horses while her mother breeds more for the recreational rider at Valhalla Farms. She told me that she'd bred a very nice filly but she's an 'alien' and rather challenging. Well.... now she's mine! Named after the native people in the movie *Avatar*, Na'vi has the most lovely

character but flips from Left-Brain Introvert to big-time, snorty right-brain for short blasts of time. She's only young, and reminds me of Remmer at that age. He was pretty snorty and spooky about new things at first.

Zen is a 13-year-old Oldenburger (Warmblood) who was gifted to me after I lost Westy. Zen was trained to Grand Prix dressage level at a young age and basically broke down. He is resilient in nature, but his body didn't hold up and he was lame for several years in the right hind. His owner felt that our Healthy Stride farrier, Jim Crew, was the only one who could get him sound - and she was right! It took a little over four months, but suddenly, no more limping. We then started playing with him on the ground and trotting and galloping him FreeStyle all over the playground, building his confidence, getting him in shape and putting in the missing pieces for his foundation. Lillan (my apprentice) did most of it and then I only had seven sessions of Game of Contact with him before taking lessons with Walter. It went pretty well, not too much baggage showed up, and we kept it really slow to maintain his confidence and not overtax his hind legs. He did great!

So now I have a 2-year-old (Apollo), a 3-year-old (Na'vi), a 4-year-old (Highland), a 5-year-old (Hot Jazz), two 13-year-olds (Allure and Zen), and a 19-year-old Remmer who is now retired and keeping the rest of the herd in line! Very exciting.

Dog Whisperer

Right before we did our City of Industry tour stop, we visited Cesar Millan, the Dog Whisperer. Some weeks earlier, he had called Pat to tell him about a horse that he'd just bought and wondered if Pat could give him a few pointers.

On arriving at his Dog Psychology Center, we met the crew, including a llama, two goats and his lively new Andalusian horse, Conquistador. What a sweet nature! Cesar could not have chosen a more suitable horse. It was really great to see how his understanding of balanced energy in dogs was also transferred to making the right choice for an equine partner.

The llama was rather dominant and Pat showed how to keep him out of our personal space, and then set about coaching Cesar, his girlfriend and his son with Conquistador. First some games on the ground,

then up and away. Cesar was the model student as he watched and learned and then finally climbed aboard himself.

A couple of days later he was the highlight of our Sunday program in City of Industry, arriving at the end of the day to give a little talk and meet all the dogs several students had brought especially to meet the real Dog Whisperer. Lots of fun!

Expos

It's been some years since we were at horse fairs, and I think these were the first ones I've ever done myself without Pat! I presented at the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, Wisconsin, and at Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio. I had a ball! I wasn't quite sure how I would feel because sometimes I feel a bit shy in a crowd, but the moment I got in the arena with my savvy team, I felt right at home.

I had big crowds that were riveted to the information about Horsenality™ and Game of Contact and met lots of people, both old and new - some of you from MANY years ago... like 15 years!

After the Madison show, I went to visit The Horse First Farm, owned and operated by Carlos Osorio. He and his dedicated team have established a wonderful environment for Parelli students, boarding horses in the most natural way possible and running regular educational seminars and clinics with top Parelli Professionals. It was actually quite moving for me to experience this; it felt like such a tribute to Pat and me.

Pat and Caton: Taking on the Performance World!

As you may know, Pat has re-ignited his passion for cutting – the sport of separating a cow from a herd which the horse has to then prevent from getting back to the herd. It's spectacular to watch the horse as it makes the most amazingly athletic moves, and even more admirable to see the rider staying in harmony as they jump from right to left and back again and again and again!

Not only is Pat starting to do really well at competitions, so is Caton. That is probably the most incredible part of this, the fact that Caton is riding and training right along side of his dad. In fact, he recently won a non-pro competition in Florida.

Pat is really passionate about training high-performance cutting horses naturally, and now that he



is starting to win at local and regional shows, he's starting to make an impact. Stay tuned!

Europe

As I write, I'm nice and cozy at my airport hotel in Zurich, having just finished five days of teaching here in Switzerland - two and a half days of Horse Behavior and Liberty, and two and a half days of advancing Game of Contact. We had an absolute blast and I really enjoy teaching such dedicated students who are ready for the next step. After the Sunday night demo on Horsenality (including some fun Left-Brain Extrovert and Left-Brain Introvert horses!), the courses began. The transformations were HUGE. I am SO PROUD of how far each horse and student came in such a short time. Tomorrow I head to England to teach a five-day Advancing Game of Contact course at our center in Stoneleigh Park. Even though I'm looking forward to it, I am missing my ponies, doggies and, oh yeah, that darling husband of mine. Meanwhile, Marion Oesch (my protégé) is keeping things cooking at home, taking good care of my ponies and teaching horse behavior and Game of Contact sessions to the Fast Trackers, Externs and Interns studying on campus in Pagosa Springs. I am so grateful to have such great support.

Until next time, see you on Parelli Connect, at the next tour stop, or at the Colorado Campus!

Yours naturally,
Linda

LONDON ON THE HORIZON

One Last Update Before The 2012 Olympic Games

As I'm writing this, we are just leaving the Parelli Horse & Soul Tour stop in Puyallup, Washington. I was able to do a spotlight, which turned out to be my final public performance before London. It was very exciting, and I can't imagine a better way to, well, finish!

Puyallup was my third tour stop this year. In Georgia, I rode with Linda and got the horses used to large crowds. At the next show, I did a spotlight, but Paris was a little emotional. Here, I thought it went very, very well. The show started, we went around the arena, and she was a star. No spooking, nothing unexpected. I was so proud of her.

That's what I look for in my horse during competition: confidence. Paris, for all her qualities, was not always the most emotionally confident horse, which made her performance in Puyallup all the more

impressive for me. When I first rode her, I could feel a bit of an 'edge' to her; it turns out a trainer in her past had been very, very rough on her with whips in an attempt to achieve flying lead changes. Now, in the dressage world, whips are fundamental, so this was a bit of a problem. But Team Canada saw her potential and skill, so they purchased her.

After the last Games, I started this new journey without a specific interest in international competition, but there were enough persistent people around me who convinced me to give it a shot. After winning a medal, there's that pressure to do it again, to prove you're not a one-time wonder. But that really wasn't my goal. With Paris being such a challenging horse, I feel like I can show that my goal is to truly become a great horsewoman. With the money Team Canada used to buy her, I could have gotten a "well-seasoned" horse who was absolutely ready, but





that wasn't the point. I want to be able to stand on the podium knowing that, number one, I improved my horsemanship.

People have asked me, "What do you do before you enter the arena?" It's funny, I spend so much of my focus and energy on doing things for my horses, that when someone asks what I do for me, it takes a bit to

answer. But anyway, before I head in, I like to have a few moments to myself. "Me-time," if you will. Just to focus, to collect my thoughts. I can be my own worst enemy sometimes, because I can get unconfident fairly quickly. But luckily, I'm aware of it when it happens, and I can tell myself to focus on the task at hand, on what I can do right now, and not to worry about the future and things beyond my control.

From now until the Games officially begin, there are 102 days. Jeez, that doesn't sound like much, does it?! I like to think of it as 204 days, because I can play with my horse twice a day. I'll be in Canada to work with the national coach, and one of my teammates is going to be riding Maile. Maile is 19 years old, but she's in very good hands, so I anticipate that she'll do well in London. The facility that Team Canada found for me is absolutely perfect for our needs, and I can't thank them enough for their flexibility and open-mindedness when it came to adjusting to my training methods and the Parelli Program. There have been a few instances where I've been using Carrot Sticks, playing in a square pen, things like that, and I've been kindly asked to refrain from doing so when other dressage riders were training. But Canada found me a great place, and I can't wait to get up there. Time for 102 days of prior and proper preparation!

I was recording an audio CD with Neil and he asked me what I see my life looking like after London. "After the dust has settled," so to speak. Now that was a difficult question. But here goes: I want to continue learning without the idea of an outcome sort of hanging over my head. I want to be able to study and, if I don't have a great day, I can just smile and say, "We'll pick it up tomorrow." I want to continue to be an ambassador for Parelli, in both the Para-equestrian world and the able-bodied horse world.

As far as competition goes, post-London, I'm sticking to my guns: as long as I'm enjoying it and my horses are enjoying it, we'll keep at it. I love the arena, the teamwork, the people I've been surrounded with. I want to give a shout-out to my assistant, Tori, who has been with me for about six months and has been an invaluable help along this journey. I couldn't have done it without her. Finally, Parelli Natural Horsemanship. What can I say? The entire Parelli world is my family. Without the support I've received from them in every way, I wouldn't be where I am right now. And I wouldn't be going where I'll be soon: London. **ST**

Have you struggled with dry spots or rubbed hair, especially after long rides?

Our new "SMART" Saddle Pad is proving to be a real hero!

For those who requested an alternative to our favorite Theraflex saddle pads, we have spent the past several years searching for one worthy of Linda and Pat's recommendation. After all of our comparative research and testing, we combined the component parts that yielded outstandingly positive, consistent results. We are thrilled with the rave reviews we're receiving. Read about the "Smart Pad" and its features, benefits and testimonials on www.parellisaddles.com. Thank you for your feedback! It spurs us on to make certain we're providing the best possible saddle tools on the planet for horses and the people who love them.



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"Jumper" nor "Reiner" (see them on the website)

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Open Day at the Horse Place

Sunday, May 20th saw the second Open Day at The Horse Place.

The sun shone, over fifty students turned out – some old friends and some new ones – to enjoy a packed timetable of displays and demonstrations by Parelli Professionals Alison Jones and David Zuend, along with working students Odette Insoll and Bekki Carnell.

David started the day riding a young Suffolk Punch, Hector - not something you see everyday. David started Hector last year to drive and drag, and he has returned this spring for starting under saddle.

Next was the Savvy Team display, followed by Alison teaching a liberty lesson with Bekki and Yellow. Alison stayed in the arena after the Savvy Team display and taught the lesson sitting on Orange, bareback and bridleless.

David then returned to the arena with Grey for a display with Alison and her young horse Boris. There was a slight delay as David explained that Boris, who had just been brought in from the field, had gone to sleep in his stable and was oblivious to the 50+ strangers in his back garden.

To round up the morning session, David gave a demonstration of driving a pair with Grey and Whity and, of course, did a great job of harrowing the arena for the afternoon events.

The afternoon started with a rescue horse from The Danzarina Project, which Alison and David are supporting, to rehabilitate rescued horses and return them to a healthy and fulfilling life. David had been working with Danzarina for two weeks and, up to now, had only stood in the stirrup. By the end of this demonstration, David was able to sit in the saddle and move Danzarina's feet. It was a privilege to witness this level of horsemanship in action.

Things livened up a little as Alison performed a Liberty spotlight with her faithful Orange. She demonstrated some Spanish walk and ended with a spectacular rear, which Alison has been teaching him this spring.

For the On Line lesson, Clare Heywood - our "knight on shining armour" - had returned specially from the Fast Track course at Stoneleigh. Clare brought in her newest horse, Spotty, and was joined by Odette with Yellow for some tuition on how to apply the Circling Game to improve a horse's physical shape and way of going.

Following that, Alison performed a Finesse ride to music with Yellow to show how, as always with the Parelli Method, everything that starts On Line can progress to riding.

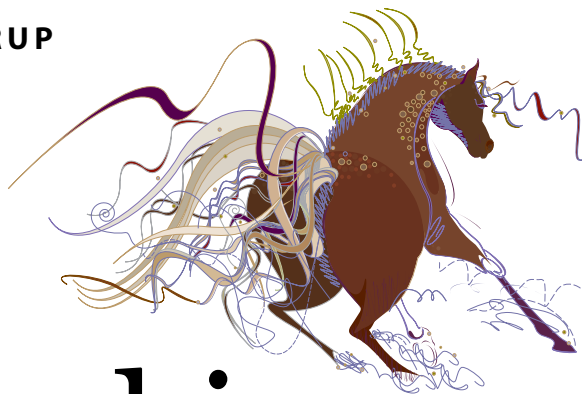
Once again, the Savvy Team - David with Grey, Alison with Orange, and Odette with Whity - returned to finish the day for us.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the arena and behind the scenes, to all spectators who travelled to see us and, most of all, to Pat and Linda Parelli for giving us the inspiration and tools to make our dreams come true.

See you all next year! **ST**







Parelli Horsemanship Fund

I am flying on a red-eye flight home from Washington after the latest tour stop. Working with a team of various volunteers, the Horse & Soul tour stop events have been rolling by: Harrisburg, PA, City of Industry, CA, and now Puyallup, WA. Each tour stop has brought us new contacts and friends, great stories of Parelli supporters assisting at therapeutic horsemanship centers, volunteering at rescues, supporting teens and youth in natural horsemanship, and improving horsemanship and teaching by scholarship recipients. I was again brought to tears of joy while watching Pat's last session with a challenging mare. He gave her such a beautiful chance. We have sold magnificent, original art donated from a variety of generous artists. Hundreds of tour stop attendees have completed our various surveys, recommending their preferences for our future programs. Kalley, Lauren, and (an unexpected pleasure in Washington) Linda have signed autographs at our booth. Good things are happening at these tour stops.

Therapeutic Horsemanship

Shannon Knapp, Founder and President of Horse Sense of the Carolinas, organized an outstanding event in April in North Carolina: The Parelli and Equine Assisted Practice Symposium. With presentations by her husband, Richard Knapp, and Donna Blem - both Parelli 2-Star Junior instructors - and several other experts, the event was well-attended and doubled last year's attendance. The presentations were highly rated by the attendees, and included hippotherapy, equine-assisted psycho-learning, and

how to use the Seven Games in therapeutic horsemanship. Thank you to Shannon, Richard and Donna for making this event possible. To top it all off, funds raised at the event were donated back to the Parelli Horsemanship Fund.

Also in April, over in Ohio, two Parelli instructors put together a day of presentations and spotlights called Therapeutic Riding and Parelli Natural Horsemanship: A Natural Combination. The audience included over 50 horsemen who volunteer their time, talent and horses in seven different therapeutic riding programs in the area. Kudos to Tom Pompei (1-Star Junior instructor) and Juli Piovesen (2-Star Junior instructor) for creating a great event despite some blustery weather.

"What an incredible joy to teach Parelli to a community of people who already utilize horses for such a powerful purpose, equipping these volunteers with the savvy to truly understand the nature of their priceless therapy partners," said Juli Piovesan.

In addition, Sjoukje Janssen added, "Tom and Juli really demonstrated what Parelli stands for, not only in words, but also in actions! Loved the enthusiasm of everybody, too. The therapeutic riding volunteers are a wonderful group of people!"

Here's a message from Marijo Bianca, a mother and artist whose life was touched by therapeutic horsemanship: "I am interested in donating a piece of art to your Fund. I was happy to learn that part of the fund supports Therapeutic Horsemanship. My son participated in Therapeutic Horsemanship, so it has a place in my heart, and since his passing last spring I have wanted to participate in some sort of volunteer





program – this works for me. I hope you choose to include me. You can keep 100% of the proceeds.” Note cards with Marijo’s dramatic horse illustration have been selling briskly at the tour stops.

Other Donations

Generous donations have been received from a number of sources, including Kathleen and Larry in honor of their gelding “Gadget” from the Atwood Ranch, Dr. Sandy Byland with the gift of her painting “Soul of the Horse,” scholarship contributions in memory of Ken Orton, an anonymous donation of a riding club’s sizeable final cash balance when they concluded their club’s activities, artwork by Melanie Brown, Jaime Robertson and Teresa Whitaker, and over \$1,000 each from the “Chisholm Trail 2” and “Team Carolinas Jamboree” fundraisers.



Volunteer Program

I have been so honored by the folks who have applied to be considered for our volunteer positions in the Parelli Horsemanship Fund. I have had the pleasure of interacting with many, many outstanding candidates over the past few months. Our initial team now has 30 volunteers, each of whom have agreed to commit 5 to 10 hours per week and to be guided by Parelli core values. One section of the volunteer agreement includes this description of the positive attitudes that will be shared by our team: “We definitely have high expectations for all the tasks and duties that need to be done. Everyone involved will need to have a positive, can-do attitude. We will treat our fellow team members and all we contact with utmost respect, honor, politeness and professionalism. We share a common goal of helping the world become a better place for horses and humans. We are going to have fun doing this. We are going to create high-performing teams. We are going to accomplish amazing outcomes.”

I am thankful to our volunteers, our donors, and all of you who are part of the Parelli community. I am certain we are going to be able to accomplish amazing outcomes. **ST**

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A Horse & Soul Tour Update: We Are Parelli Everywhere

As of this writing, I have just returned from the Parelli Horse & Soul Tour stop in Puyallup, Washington. This means that the 2012 Horse & Soul Tour is about halfway over (45.5% over, to be unnecessarily specific).

With that in mind, it seems like as good a time as any for a look back at the shows, the moments, the spotlights, the music, the shopping, and the horsemanship!

The inaugural Horse & Soul show took place in Lexington, Virginia. It was also the inaugural Parelli show, of any kind, for yours truly. To say I was nervous would be a tremendous understatement. After all, when you place a Right-Brain Introvert in a brand new situation with a lot of expensive equipment he knows little to nothing about, his reaction is probably not going to be unbridled optimism and enthusiasm. Couple that with the fact that I clearly overestimated my tolerance for Virginia-in-February cold when I was packing for the trip, and I felt a tad overwhelmed.

But, as I imagine they say in the theatre, the show must go on. And go on, it certainly did. When the doors opened at 8:00am and thousands of bundled-up Parelli fans streamed in just as the sunlight began to poke through the windows above the arena floor, it was a pretty amazing moment. The sound booth was situated a distance away from the retail floor, but the enthusiasm radiating from that area was palpable. New rope colors! New DVDs! Warm hooded sweat-shirts! A line formed almost immediately and it didn't subside until Neil Pye strolled out onto the floor to deafening applause.

At this point, nearly four months later, the show itself is something of a blur to me (which is a little disheartening... I'm only 24! My memory should still be crystal clear, right? Right?!). But there were some truly unforgettable moments, and if you attended the show, I'm sure this will jog your memory:

Remember Pat's Trailer Loading session on Saturday afternoon? Pat had brought out the horse and her owner, a young woman whose name I can't recall. She talked with Pat in the arena for a few minutes as her horse circled with a fair amount of, well, "Go!" When Pat began his session with the horse, the woman came up and sat at the sound booth. As Pat took the horse to the green ball, then





to the barrels and the tarp, I glanced over at her. Her facial expression was a perfect combination of awe, happiness, and whatever you'd call the feeling of "I can't wait to get home and do the same thing with my horse!"

As Pat and the horse approached the trailer, he emphasized to the enthralled audience that he was going to take the time it takes, that the schedule wasn't important, and that he was doing what the horse needed. As he uttered the words, "It's not about the trailer," the horse casually strolled up and into the trailer. The crowd erupted, the owner was ecstatic, and I just sat there dumbfounded with a stupid little grin on my face. I guess this stuff works, huh?

After spending the next week or so in Florida, we made our way up to Conyers, Georgia for the next

tour stop. It was here that a pattern was put into motion that would continue at every subsequent stop. When we arrived in Conyers, it was about 75 degrees and sunny with a pleasant breeze. You know, exactly what I anticipated when I learned I'd be going to Georgia. Well, that was as good as it was going to get. By the time the weekend rolled around, it was closer to 30 degrees with a gale force wind that seemed determined on blowing over trash bins and speakers. I grew up in the far northern regions of Wisconsin, and I've never been that cold. Thankfully, Linda Parelli noticed my violent shivering and brought me an electric blanket.

Anyway, back to the show.

For the first time, we were joined by Parelli Professional Dancin' Pete Rodda, who managed to break

news

out of his shell a little to warm up and engage the crowd. The lines were long and completely exposed to the elements, so they certainly appreciated Pete's enthusiasm and interactive activities. He also led a group of instructors through a game that apparently takes place on campus quite a bit, but since I don't know the actual name, I'm just going to call it the Use Your 45' Rope To Knock The Green Ball Over The Other Team's Line game. It was genuinely hilarious, and the crowd was absolutely raucous in cheering for their side, even though it was barely 9:00am on a frigid Sunday morning.

Later, Linda was joined by various Parelli Professionals and special guest Lauren Barwick during the Rider Biomechanics session. In preparation for the London 2012 Olympics, Lauren had asked if she'd

“When the doors opened at 8:00am and thousands of bundled-up Parelli fans streamed in just as the sunlight began to poke through the windows above the arena floor, it was a pretty amazing moment.

be able to bring her horses to Conyers to familiarize them with cheering crowds. It was a beautiful sight, seeing her and Paris joining Linda and the team in the arena to demonstrate the finer points of biomechanics.

We had a bit of a break between Conyers and the next tour stop, which took place in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. I spent a decent amount of time tinkering with the music, which is among the most enjoyable aspects of touring for me. When the doors opened and the music came pouring out of the recently-raised sound system (thanks again to Chuck – you and your team saved me from about four separate complete mental breakdowns), I knew we were in for a good show – or at least a good-sounding show. Thankfully, it was both.

Linda's Horsenality™ session had been changed a little since Conyers; it now featured four horses, with

each representing their respective Horsenalties. Without question, it was a hit. The Left-Brain Introvert, in particular, charmed the audience with his insistence on not speeding up beyond the pace of a snail. Pat's Trailer Loading session went late into the evening on Saturday, but the vast majority of attendees stayed and watched every minute. Even after the show officially ended at around 7:00pm, hundreds of people remained in their seats and watched as Pat and the horse's owner used Approach & Retreat until the horse was comfortable enough to enter the trailer. It was truly an amazing sight.

Kalley Krickeberg had performed her Mare & Foal spotlight at both shows leading up to Harrisburg, so I knew what to expect when she and the horses entered the arena. And you know what? I still got chills when the mare and foal flew past the sound booth at liberty as “Free” by Zac Brown Band played. Judging from the audience's reaction and applause, which echoed throughout the building for a solid two minutes after Kalley exited, there were about 3,000 people who felt the same way.

The show ended around 3:45pm on Sunday. I could be wrong, but I believe the rain started at around 3:46, and it didn't let up until long after we had loaded the truck, shut off the lights, and left the venue after 11 o'clock. By the time the truck was loaded, all of us were soaked to the bone in cold Pennsylvania rain, exhausted, but feeling very good about what had been a very good show. The following day was not one of my personal favorites, as it involved a late flight to Chicago, a missed connection to Denver, being placed on standby, and sleeping in the Denver airport, but that's a story best left for another day.

As City of Industry approached, there were whispers that a very special guest may be making an appearance. Craig Cameron? Kobe Bryant? Elvis?! It was soon revealed that the guest in question was the Dog Whisperer himself, Cesar Millan. Pat mentioned this to the crowd on Saturday morning – to deafening applause – and it was abundantly clear on Sunday morning that plenty of people were pretty excited about the possibility of seeing Cesar. I never expected to see so many dogs at a horsemanship tour.

Sunday afternoon rolled around, and Pat's Horse Makeover session – the final session of the weekend – was nearing its conclusion. No Cesar. So Pat got a hold of a cell phone, put it on speaker, and called Cesar Millan from the middle of the arena in front



of about 1,500 people. He was on his way. Half an hour later, he burst into the arena and charmed the crowd with his intelligence, expertise, and endearing sense of humor. After inviting all the dogs (and their humans) onto the arena floor and giving a quick teaching session, he took part in an impromptu horsemanship lesson from Pat. It was inspiring to see two masters in the arena, teaching and learning, educating and entertaining.

After the show ended, the team spent a quick week in Colorado before flying up to the Pacific Northwest for our Puyallup stop. A lucky few members of the team were able to see Mt. Rainier out the window of the plane, which they tell me was a breathtaking sight. I didn't see much more than the back of the seat in front of me, but I digress...

If there's one word I can use to describe the Puyallup show, I wouldn't hesitate to use "smooth." The sessions flowed beautifully, the arena sound setup was fairly straightforward, and the spotlights were spectacular. Our retail area was set up in an adjacent draft barn, and the team made perfect use of the unique space. And the crowd was incredibly active, responsive, enthusiastic and participatory. There was a grandmother with her two grandchildren sitting directly behind the sound booth, and I spent just about every break talking with them and showing the sound board to the kids. It was great to see such enthusiasm in young audience members.

As noted earlier, the spotlights were amazing, and it bears repeating. Berin MacFarlane wowed the crowd during his solo spotlight, and he and some of the

Atwood Ranch folks brought out the Atwood yearlings as well. Lillan Roquet and her mare Andiamo were inspiring, and from a music guy's perspective, they couldn't have timed the end of the spotlight any better. It made my job incredibly easy. Lauren Barwick and Paris reprised their spotlight from Harrisburg, and by the end, there was barely a dry eye in the building. Finally, Rachel and Don Jessop brought the crowd to their feet on Saturday afternoon.

So, that's where we're at thus far. The shows have been incredible, the audiences have been fantastic, and the weather has been, well, manageable. Columbus, Ohio is looming on my calendar, with St. Paul, Minnesota not much longer after that. By the time you read this, those two shows will have taken place, and if the first five are any indication, they're going to be unforgettable. And (shameless plug here) remember, if you go to any of the shows, make sure to take plenty of photos and videos! Pick out the best of the best, send them in to tumblr@parelli.com (for photos) and parellitube@parelli.com (for videos), and you'll have a chance to win our Social Media Rock Star contest. There's a pretty snazzy ad somewhere in this magazine with all the details. And finally, thank you to everyone who has stopped by the sound booth and complimented the music, talked to me about sound, or simply said "hi." That's easily the most rewarding part of any show – when someone comes up and says, "I loved that one song, what was it called?!" So by all means, stop by and say hi. I'll be the guy behind the laptop. See you soon! **ST**

Parelli UK Update

Well, the summer is rolling right along! I hope you and your horses are enjoying the warm days, getting out and about and joining in with some play days and clinics.

Our course season is progressing well. We kicked off the season with a two-week 2-Star course. We had a lovely group of Parelli Professionals join us to progress in their journey; they were led by 4-Star Parelli Professional Tina Giordano, with Alison Jones and Sally Brett supporting her. After the first week, they were joined by the 1-Star course participants, who were here for the week. Everyone did a great job! Keep an eye out for them on Parelli Connect.

After the instructor course, we had the Instructor Horsemanship course. This was led by Carmen Zulauf with help from Alison Jones. Everyone had a fantastic week, progressing their horsemanship to Level 4. Parelli Professional Vicky Manser took part in the course and here is what she had to say:

"Our five days went all too quickly, and it was soon time to return home. I often think the quality of instruction is measured not by how much you achieve at the time, but on how you can build and progress when you're back on your own. I'm pleased to report that I am thrilled to bits with my new and improved connection with Fluke! My understanding and application of the Parelli program has raised to a new level, and of course this transfers to my teaching. The greater the depth of my understanding, the more effectively I am able to share Pat's message."

To see what else Vicky had to say about her week here, check out her blog on the Parelli Central Blog: <http://ow.ly/bdAvO>

Our May Fast Track went really well, with Carmen Zulauf leading the course and Sarah Wearing, Elly Brooks and Jarno De Smet as support. The students

experienced all kinds of weather and did a great job enjoying themselves and their horses. Their four weeks were packed full with horsemanship, theory and the occasional BBQ and fish and chip evening.

Louise Broadway, our very own 1-Star Parelli Professional, was one of the torchbearers for the Olympic Torch Tour around the UK. Louise was nominated to carry the torch due to the fact that she actively encourages all of her colleagues to volunteer and inspires those around her to participate in local events. Louise is involved in rehoming and ensuring the long-term welfare of ponies in the southwest - she is a volunteer Loan Home Inspector and a fundraiser for Southwest Equine Protection. In addition to this Louise is a horsemanship instructor with Parelli



Horsemanship, and promotes the Parelli Horsemanship which among other things, provide funding for disabled riders and rescue horses. In addition Louise somehow finds time to assist her local hospice care shop manager whenever possible in fund raising.

Louise's thoughts on the day: *"It was amazing having the crowd shout out my name while I was running with the Torch in one hand and waving with the other. I can remember a moment about halfway along my run when I glanced to me right and seen the flame in the Torch and it suddenly hit me how many great people have carried this flame before me. I am truly honoured to have had this opportunity. It was very emotional."*

On Sunday, May 20th, Parelli Professionals David Zuend and Alison Jones opened up their home, The Horse Place, for an Open Day. They had over 50 students turn up, old friends and new, to enjoy a packed timetable of displays and demonstrations from Alison and David, as well as their working students Odette Insoll and Bekki Carnell. These included driving, Liberty, horse starting and collection. Everyone had a great time – the sun even decided to shine!

When this article comes out, we will have had our first Level 3 and 4 course led by Lyla Cansfield, our



2nd Fast Track led by Sam Caporn, we'll be halfway through our one-week courses, and the Olympics will have started. As you can see, it's a busy summer in 2012 for the Parelli UK team. We all wish you the best for the rest of the summer and that you enjoy yourselves out with your horses. We love to hear from you all, so make sure you keep in touch with us. You can always email your pictures and updates of what you get up to with your horsey friends to uk@parelli.com. **51**



Parelli Professionals Train Fire Officers



Making the world a better place for horses and humans; that is just what 2-Star Parelli Professional Aniek Pieterse and I set out to do.

On two occasions – hopefully the start of many to come – our local fire station came to visit and learn how the barn operates, how the horses are kept and things like escape routes and the usual safety measures. Then, equally as important, they learned how to handle horses in a panic situation, how to make a halter out of a lead rope, how to handle a horse when it is afraid and can't move its feet, and much more.

One fire officer said, "In all my 32 years as a fireman, I have never so much as touched a horse. I would not have known what to do if I had too. This really was an eye opener."

This really is such a valuable exercise for all involved. To continue and spread that message, we really need to go beyond expectations. We are still on the forefront of some very big things and if we can be the first to offer a few free hours once in a while to educate those that risk their lives for us everyday, then maybe we can all sleep easier at night knowing that if something were to happen, we have a better chance that the horses will be okay.

The horses actually took quite well to their Darth Vader masks and thick gloves... a super Friendly Game. To be able to handle a horse with your normal clothes on can be hard enough, let alone wearing a full kit.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our farmer, Rutger, for his courtesy, Carla for arranging it all, Hanneke for lending her beautiful horse and to all the fire officers of Heemstede station for their polite respect and attention. **ST**

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Parelli Australia Campus Updates

As we look forward to the beginning of spring here at the Australia Parelli Campus, we are thankful for the winter time, as it allows us to fully appreciate the coming of the warmer season. Although the cooler weather didn't slow us down. The 1st July marked a new beginning for Australia, as the first University Course of its kind began.

The six-week University Intensive Horsemanship Course includes a group of students who travelled from across Australia to join us for this inaugural course. Students gained hands-on horsemanship development experience as they spent their time developing Parelli Member horses, from all ages and stages of development. This program was overseen by 5-Star Master Instructor Rob McAuliffe, who was personally selected by Pat Parelli to lead Colt Starting courses and University Programs, in both Pagosa Springs and Florida, during his many years in the States. Since returning to Australia, Rob has held a key role in running and teaching at the Australia Campus, including instructor mentoring and development.

The horses accepted in for development training are guided through the Foundation Levels of the Parelli Program to better prepare them for a successful horsemanship journey with their dedicated natural horsemanship owners. This course was meant for any Fast Track Graduate, 1 or 2-Star Instructor to assist in meeting their Professional goals and those looking to advance their own horsemanship. This course allowed students, fresh on their instructor path, to fully understand Pat's saying: "Take care of your horsemanship, and your horsemanship will take care of you." We look forward to offering this course again in 2013, as the first was fully booked with students and horses at record speed!

Another first for our Campus in Australia this year will be the offering of a one-week 1-Star Instructor Course, which will be open to successful graduates of the Fast Track Program who are interested in teaching the Parelli Program. Students no longer have to travel overseas to gain this qualification. This course will also be followed by a 1-week Instructor Horsemanship Course, a perfect refresher for our instructors and a great way for them to spend horsemanship time with their own horse. We have an enthusiastic group of students enrolled for these courses, including one student joining us all the way from Germany!

For those students not yet ready for Professional courses, or those looking for a more recreational type course, our one-week October courses, Positive. Progressive. Natural. On Line and FreeStyle, seem to fit the bill, as both are now fully booked. Keep an eye out for the release of the 2013 schedule for more of these courses.

We have confirmed our booking to return to Equitana in Melbourne this November and look forward to seeing all of you there! We will be in the Boulevard Pavilion, booth number 141, near the brand new Breeds Pavilion! We are excited to be attending this event and we look forward to seeing many familiar faces along with meeting many new horse lovers. Please make sure you stop by the booth to say hello and to see the latest products available. We hope to have some Australia-only specific items for purchase at Equitana, which we are excited to share with you! As always, Equitana is a great place to do your Christmas shopping! Equitana is a wonderful way for us to join as a Parelli team – students, instructors and office team – and celebrate the year that was.

For any questions, you can contact our Australia Office team on 1800 460 988 or australia@parelli.com. We look forward to seeing you at an event soon. **ST**



What Are The Odds?



On Saturday June 9th, the same day that Union Rags ran and won the 144th Belmont Stakes, another lesser-known and somewhat lesser-attended competition took place in the hills of a vast Montana ranch. The American Competitive Trail Horse Association held a Competitive Trail Challenge at the Resort at Paws Up. A total of twenty riders competed, two in the open division, and eighteen in the pleasure division. And, I am proud to say, I won in the pleasure division!

Of the top five winners of the day, first, third and fifth place went to students of Parelli Natural Horsemanship. What are the “odds”? I’d say the odds are 1, 3 and 5! In fact, Parelli students had a large presence; seven out of twenty participants, including Marlene Takle, Bob Takle, Cheryl Burt, and Q DeHart. Not bad for traditional cowboy country.

Fifth place went to Gail Fromm and her horse Chester, aka “Cheddar Cheese,” who pulled into Paws Up early the morning of the competition and, with very little time to warm up, wowed the judges with Chester’s calm demeanor.

The third place spot went to my wife, 2-Star Junior Instructor Lorri Roy, on her flashy paint mare Sailing. Sailing and Lorri completed the course with a stellar gully crossing and a total of 113 points out of 120. The Squeeze Game came in handy once again.

Second place in the open division went to Cheryl Burt, a Level 4 student and a frequent play day pal, on her willing and calm horse Bailey.

After the competition, when the time came for the organizer of the event to announce who first place went to, I must admit I was a little nervous. I was not nervous at all on the trail, since prior and proper preparation is what prevented p***-poor



performance, but as soon as Judy the organizer said, “And first place goes to...” for a split second I thought, “She can’t possibly say my name.” But she did. For the first time in my life, I won an award with my horse and I owe it all to the Parelli program and my wonderful horse.

My 9-year-old Quarter horse, Sam, was his usual self on the trail – calm, willing, brave, and ears forward the entire time. With a total of 117 points out of 120, we completed the entire course using Pat’s principles of love, language and leadership. We completed the six-obstacle, three-hour course with flying colors.

After the awards ceremony I went to the trailer, gave Sam a scratch and a couple extra cookies, and thanked him for doing such a great job that day. Pat

is right when he says that what motivates humans is different from what motivates horses. I was motivated to win that day, but not at the expense of the relationship with my horse and not at the expense of the principles that Pat and Linda teach. I am very proud of the blue ribbon I won, which now hangs in my house next to Sam’s photo. But what I am most proud of is that I have always strived to put my principles before my purpose, to always make my horse feel successful no matter what the day holds. I know that my horse does not speak English, but he does understand intention and energy. And although he has no idea what he accomplished that day in terms of praise, recognition and material things, I hope he knows that for me, he is the world’s greatest horse, Belmont or not. **ST**

Colored Savvy Strings Now Available In Parelli Web Shop

In the spirit of never-ending self-improvement – not to mention color coordination – Parelli has decided to offer colored Savvy Strings in our web shop. These colored strings will match existing Parelli rope products including halters, lead ropes, hackamores, and any other equipment you want to coordinate with!

Previously, colored strings were only available through the audition process. If you're in the process

of sending in your audition video and you're wondering whether colored strings will have lost their luster now that they're available to the public, please don't worry. Parelli is introducing brand new flecked Savvy Strings available exclusively through Auditions. These red and blue strings with white flecks will represent Levels 1 & 2, respectively – just like the solid colored strings have in the past.

Our solid green and solid black Savvy Strings, which represent achieving Level 3 & 4 horsemanship, respectively, will remain exclusive to Auditions.

"We're re-introducing Pat's original vision of flecked awards strings, with a slightly updated look," says Ashley Tippetts, Parelli's Auditions Manager.

The colored Savvy String is more than just a sort of trophy that celebrates your achievement; rather, it's a physical representation of the relationship you and your horse have built over time. This recognition is vitally important to our students, which is why we will continue to offer Audition-exclusive strings. At the same time, the popularity of our recently released colored ropes indicates that Parelli students are happy to embrace growth and bold changes on the part of Parelli Natural Horsemanship, and offering colored Savvy Strings was the next logical step.

We are very excited about this new offer, and we look forward to seeing you and your horses using these colored strings as well! **ST**





A NEW APPROACH TO HORSE TOURS:

PRELLI IN COSTA RICA



As much as we loved our life in Cornwall, England, we were so excited for our three-month sabbatical to the tropical paradise of Costa Rica; we had saved our hearts out and taken unpaid leave to make our long-planned, once-in-a-lifetime vacation a reality. Little did we know we were about to completely change the course of our lives, and that just three months and two weeks later, we would have taken a plunge into running an equine business in the tropical rain-forests of Central America.

Towards the end of our magical trip, we were sitting on the beach at sunset, commiserating with each other about going back to reality. We joked half-heartedly about turning our backs on responsibility and staying here in Costa Rica, living the dream! We laughed, saluted the fading sun and headed back to our cabaña. The next morning over breakfast, we again talked about staying, only this time we dared to dream of how that could be a reality. Up until that time in our lives, we had always played it safe. I gave up the childhood dream of working with horses to pursue a “proper job” that was office-based, and I hated it!

Heads firmly in the clouds, we took a chance and rolled our dice of fate. Holding hands, we watched our flight leave over our heads, heading back to England without us! My face ached with grinning, and nervous laughter escaped my lips. What had we just done? We had no plan, nowhere to live, and had just emailed our respectable jobs and families to tell them we were not coming back; effectively, we had just done something so crazily irresponsible that we felt giddy.

During my vacation, I had wanted desperately to go riding. Horses had always been and were still a major part of my life. I was a junior show jumper growing up and an avid trail rider through my adult life. When I saw the options here in Costa Rica, I just couldn't bring myself to do it. It was depressing. I saw emaciated horses being bounced around on by overweight tourists. Oftentimes the guide whipped them from behind; it was sickening, and I wanted no part of it.

Two days after our escape from reality, we had a chance meeting on the beach with a dubious couple



that was selling a defunct trail riding outfit. My ears immediately pricked up. The price was ridiculously low, and although they had only three horses, my mind was racing ahead. This was my destiny. My toes ground in the sand as I heard my husband say, “Well, good luck with finding a buyer!” Pulling myself up to my full 5'3", I asked if we could come and see the horses. Chris turned and looked at me like I had grown another head! After agreeing on a time the next day, I towed Chris by the hand to the nearest beach bar, placed a cold beer in his hand and proceeded to bombard him with my hastily Right-Brain Extrovert-formulated plan. After a second beer, he was starting to see my side of the story. “You honestly think we can do this?” Damn straight I did! This was FATE!

The next day, my plans fell apart around my ears. The field the horses were in was bare and only growing weeds; the horses were starving and saddle sore. I was filled with anger and disbelief. It had

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WORDS FROM THE EDITOR: Working horses, especially rental trail horses, are famous for being dull, unresponsive, overworked and mentally shut down... right? Well, one couple has made it their life's mission to prove it doesn't have to be this way. By putting the horses' well-being ahead of profits and by applying Parelli principles to their business, Chris and Andrea Wady of Discovery Horse Tours Costa Rica have rewritten the model for working horses worldwide.

community



all felt like it was meant to be, a grand plan by the universe to give me everything I had ever wanted. Expecting Chris to turn and walk back to the car, I was shocked when he began renegotiating the price. You could have knocked me down with a feather; all was not lost. The following week, we finalized the deal and signed for the business. We had already been caring for the horses and nursing them back to health. We found a new, beautiful location with lots of grazing, and we couldn't have been more proud of our fledgling business than if we had just signed for the majority shares in Microsoft.

It was now time to go looking for more horses. We had decided there were so many that needed help that we would try to buy horses that needed to get out of where they were. Within days, we had swelled our herd to eight but our hearts were smashed into a thousand pieces. Our herd was pitiful. They were skinny, dull-eyed and terrified of humans. They were also months away from being able to be ridden. The indignity and abuses that the horses had suffered were beyond description. I could cry no more tears,

so instead set about righting the wrongs they had been subjected to. Slowly the horses gained weight; they began to interact with us and, slowly but surely, began to trust us. Being met with whinnies in the morning by our raggle-taggle herd was the most heartwarming feeling in the world. Nothing can compare to gaining the trust of an abused horse, and to me it feels like winning gold at the Olympics!

About a year after we had the business up and running well, we were invited to a Parelli clinic with David Lichman that was being held in the mountains by some newfound friends, Liz and Steve of Barking Horse Farm! I had never tried Parelli, but being starved of horse friends we decided to sign up and give it a go. We had it on good authority that David was very well-thought-of. In fact, a client the week before arrived at our barn wearing Parelli socks, a Parelli Tee shirt and a Parelli visor; she was proud to call herself a groupie! I explained to her that I was about to learn Parelli and was in fact going to see a man called David Lichman. She squealed with excitement, "He is like a GOD in the Parelli world!" Large praise indeed!

It was to be a weekend that would change our lives forever. David understood my frustration at having been an accomplished rider who was now back to



Nothing can compare to gaining the trust of an abused horse.

being a “novice.” I tied my rope around my legs and poked myself with Carrot Sticks. Chris, however, having none of the constraints of traditional training, was blossoming. I did achieve a lifelong goal of riding with no reins! We finished the clinic and our minds were buzzing with ideas on how to improve our working horses’ lives.

As we progressed through the Parelli home study program, we learnt a lot about Horsenalties™, not only their effects on our training methods, but on how we needed to incorporate them into planning our working rides. We have the luxury of working on a 1,500 acre rainforest reserve, so we have space. This set Chris thinking about how the trails needed to be laid out to keep all of our horses happy and engaged. Armed with a machete and his trusted dog at his feet, he set off cutting sections of trail that could be essentially bolted together in any order to make things interchangeable and less predictable. After three months and ten pounds of weight loss, his work had produced a provocative but safe option of routes. Logs were placed on the trails to give the horses puzzles to solve; there are rivers to cross and gates to open. Some trails split in two, offering one route that is slightly shorter than the other, giving the introverts with more “whoa” than “go” the option of a short cut. In fact, some of our dominant left-brain horses got smart and used this as a way to get ahead of their more submissive pals. Incorporating the Friendly Game into their working lives was vital to us. We achieved this by having a break point in the ride; the clients get to go and cool down in the pristine waterfall and do a mud bath, whilst the horses are met by hay nets to munch on or a doze in the shade - a Friendly Game for any Horsenality. All ears are instantly on the return of the riders as they bring the horses their watermelon treats. All these little things have gone a huge way into producing happy, engaged, surefooted, reliable trail horses.

People used to ask, “How can you watch novices ride your horses?” Our answer was, “To educate them!” We ensure that our paying customers understand the Parelli concepts before they even touch a horse. They are given a quick lesson in horse behavior, Freestyle riding, what horses like and don’t like, what energy they respect, and what type of person they might take advantage of. We also like to explain how the horses are thoroughly encouraged to have their own Horsenalties and the problems that might cause for them



as riders. We then give them strategies to empower themselves, for example, in the face of a very clever Left-Brain Introvert. We have managed to convert many “traditional” riders into Parelli students and given first-time riders a more positive introduction to the world of horses. Linda and Pat often talk about making the world a better place for horses and humans, and we are so proud to be able to play our very small part in that ethos.

Over the last couple of years, we have been able to expand this by introducing “Parelli in Paradise,” a vacation for Parelli students from around the world that includes a two-day clinic with leading Parelli instructors (including David Lichman and Amy Bowers), followed by a series of day rides into the most stunning rainforests, along deserted beaches, and into the mountains of our Pacific coast location (ride times vary from 2.5 hours to 5 hours) before returning each evening to their beachfront hotel to swing in the hammock and watch the sun go down.

Taking that chance and watching our plane leave without us changed our lives forever. Finding Parelli and using it in our business made sure that chance was put to good use! **ST**

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*This hard work and commitment has obviously paid off for Chris and Andrea, as Discovery Horse Tours was recently voted the Number One activity and tour to do in Central America by Trip Advisor. For more information on Discovery Horse Tours, go to horseridecostarica.com. **ST***

Therapy with Hank & Trip

Life is a journey of unexpected twists and turns. Some of those twists of fate lead us on interesting paths to regain health and independence.

Cindy Long, Hank - her six-year-old Quarter Horse gelding - and his full brother, Trip, have formed a team to provide opportunities for those on the unexpected journey to experience that spiritual connection to the inner self that comes from relating to a horse. They work with patients who have suffered a devastating traumatic brain injury.

Cindy has been playing with and showing horses since she was 12 years old. She is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist and has been working in brain injury rehabilitation for about 10 years. Volunteering in a therapeutic riding facility, she began to dream about one step more: "What if a horse could work with the most impaired patients at their level?" Her idea grew with each new experience. Then she met Hank!

Hank is a double bred Joe Hancock gelding, purchased by Cindy as a green-broke three-year-old. She found Parelli at the same time. Cindy attended the Parelli Celebration in Ft. Worth, Texas and knew she found the method that was perfect for her and Hank. She is playing in Level 2 or 3 in all Four Savvys with both horses.

When Cindy began playing the Seven Games with Hank and studying Horsenality™, she saw a very confident, kind and calm Left-Brain Introvert appear. She realized that Hank was the very special horse she had dreamed about - the one with the ability to work with many different levels of patient therapy.

Hank loves people and is especially fond of those in wheelchairs. He loves to greet patients and tenderly nuzzles them, bringing huge smiles to everyone who meets him.

She estimated that it would take perhaps three or four weeks of training Hank in the rehab setting before he could work with his first patient. This training would include getting him accustomed to all the different kinds of equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, power chairs, etc. (talk about playing the Squeeze Game!). He also would have to experience the different levels of patients - those who walk, use chairs, and those who are ataxic (shake very badly). He had to learn to match patients' gait patterns. If someone was learning to walk and could only take a half step at a time, he needed to learn to match that gait pattern. Cindy also taught him to play all Seven Games from a standing position as well as from a wheelchair. It's magical to see someone play the Circling Game from a wheelchair.

A physical therapist where Cindy works agreed to help get Hank used to the equipment and the different types of patients by simulating the different patients using the assistive devices they would be using.

This training, combined with Hank's natural abilities, paid off. Hank learned to be sensitive to communication and to move all five zones with the slightest pressure so even the most impaired patients could move this gentle giant.

On the first day Hank came to the rehab center, Cindy and the therapist used all types of equipment around Hank and nothing bothered him. They were so amazed! Hank remained so calm and confident



*Great shot of
Michael, Kevin,
Hank and Trip*



*Kevin working with a buckle
on a stirrup keeper to help
with his dexterity and
fine motor skills as well as
problem solving*



community

that they decided to bring up a patient to play with Hank for a trial run.

First Therapy Session with Hank

His first patient was a woman who had suffered a stroke and had lost most of the use of the right side of her body. When Hank looked over at her, he walked over to her with no cues from Cindy and lowered his muzzle onto her lap in a very slow and gentle way and closed his eyes. The patient loved it. She stroked his face and his muzzle. The therapist worked with her, using her affected arm to stroke his face, and then Hank was asked for the ultimate Squeeze and Sideways Games. He was asked to slowly move over to stand sideways in front of her so she could stroke the side of his body with her affected arm from her wheelchair. He moved so gently and, with the touch of a butterfly, moved Zones 2 and 3 just where they needed to be so she could reach him.

She played the Yo-Yo Game from her wheelchair with Hank. She giggled with joy at being able to move this 1300-pound horse backwards and forwards just by wiggling one finger. When she drew Hank back to her, he put his muzzle in her lap every time, much to her delight.

This went so well; they decided to let her lead Hank from her wheelchair using her affected arm. When they began going forward, Hank intuitively lowered his head to the patient's level when she was leading him. He walked at the exact rate she was able to pull herself forward with her unaffected leg. It was truly amazing and the patient was beaming with pride. She couldn't believe she could lead Hank so easily from her wheelchair. She said she felt very empowered and strong. She was smiling from ear to ear.

The patient's response was magical. She stood up beside Hank and the therapist said she stood much longer with Hank than she had in the gym – and stood up straighter!

The Magical Gift of Knowing What Part of The Patient is Affected

Hank seems to have a gift of knowing which part of the patient is affected. When Cindy and Hank worked with their first blind patient, Hank seemed to instinctively know the patient couldn't see. The patient was blind from a brain injury.

Cindy said, "From about 30 feet away, Hank looked over at him and, on his own, walked over to the

patient and began nuzzling his eyes like a Mother would nuzzle a new born baby. It was a very tender moment. The patient laughed and laughed as Hank's whiskers tickled his face". Everyone was so moved by this, there wasn't a dry eye to be found. Everyone had tears of joy running down their cheeks.

"It's not uncommon for Hank to go directly to the patient's affected area. It's a gift of intuition that I can't explain," Cindy said.

Hank Even Makes House Calls

Recently, when a patient that works with Hank every Friday was unable to attend because he had eye surgery the prior day, Hank went to the patient's apartment to help cheer him up. The front door was opened and Hank walked halfway in just to say hi to the patient and brighten his day. "I think Hank would have walked on in and sat on the sofa if I would have let him," says Cindy. Hank wasn't at all worried about going in the apartment and it really made the patient's day.

When Cindy found out Hank's full brother was for sale, she bought him immediately. His name is Trip (we nick named him Trip because the day we brought him home my husband said, "Man, he's a trip to play with" – and it stuck!). He's a dapple gray Right-Brain Introvert on the cusp of Left-Brain Introvert. The patient who Hank visited at his apartment was instrumental in helping Cindy train Trip to do all the same things. Since this patient loved horses and had weekly scheduled sessions, Cindy used Trip with him a lot and it helped train Trip.

Weekly Therapy Session with Hank and Trip

Because of the tremendous response, Hank and Trip now see patients twice a week at a traumatic brain injury rehabilitation center in Texas. The therapy team use Hank and Trip for all disciplines: Occupational, Speech, Physical and Cognitive Therapy.

Cindy described some of the results: "One patient we worked with was only able to say numbers verbally at that point in time. His speech consisted of repeating numbers over and over. He could not verbalize using words or phrases. But in his first session with Hank, the patient said his first words that were not numbers since his accident. As he saw Hank move in response to the words we coached him to say (back,

right, left), the patient began his recovery of using words to communicate.” Cindy used the Sideways Game and the Yo-Yo Game with this patient.

While Hank and Trip are trained to move all five zones with the touch of a butterfly, they will also stand braced to allow someone from a wheelchair to use a rope tied to their saddle horns and pull themselves up.

Cindy explained, “Many patients have taken their first steps with Hank and Trip. No matter how slow they walk, or how irregular their gait pattern is, Hank and Trip walk at the pace of the patient, mirroring their gait. Again, they seem to know just what the patient needs from them.”

“One patient only had movement in one finger. He was in a reclining wheelchair because he couldn’t even hold himself up and he was unable to speak. He could communicate using his eyes and his one finger. Hank went over to him and gently put his muzzle on the patient’s chest. The patient gave Hank a loving look and took his one finger and began stroking Hank’s muzzle. The patient’s eyes lit up and he had love in his eyes when he looked up at Hank. Even when the patient’s finger went up Hank’s nostril, Hank didn’t move or flinch. He maintained his expression of kindness and patience while he let the patient stroke him as long as he was able.”

Hank and Trip are also used to help patients improve their memories and cognitive skills. Cindy will set up patterns with cones and an obstacle course based on the patient’s ability. Cindy or the therapist will verbally review the pattern with the patient then the patient will try to recall the pattern while leading Hank or Trip.

Hank and Trip are trained to stop immediately when the patient stops and they back up when the patient backs up. They will do this whether the patient is standing, in a manual wheel chair or in a power chair.

“Hank and Trip seem to look forward to their visits with the patients,” Cindy concluded. “Everyone looks forward to therapy with Hank and Trip. The patients say it is the highlight of their week. Each patient mentioned above represents many patients who have had that special breakthrough that awakens responses to activate steps to healing. I don’t know what it is about these special horses that brings out the will in people to try to make such progress, but Hank and Trip have a miraculous gift

of communication and empathy that constantly amazes me and others around us.”

Using the Parelli method and building on love, language and leadership has made a huge difference. Cindy has utilized the Parelli method to teach the patients and the therapists all about Parelli. It’s funny, even though only one of the many therapists and counselors we work with has horse experience, they all talk in Parelli “speak” now! They all know the Seven Games and we build them into our obstacle courses. They talk about the characteristics of a Left-Brain Introvert and Right-Brain Introvert Horsenality when talking to patients about Hank and Trip. Sometimes we create little “quizzes” to help assess the patient’s memory using questions about the various aspects of the Parelli method. The patients and clients really enjoy this.

Cindy also utilizes her Parelli equipment for various therapies. She uses the halters to help patients work on their fine motor skills by tying and untying the halter, hooking and unhooking the lead rope and by buckling and unbuckling all the various buckles on her Parelli saddle. The patients and clients love getting to use real equipment, as most of them have never been around a horse or equipment before. They all want their pictures taken with Hank and Trip, showing them working with the saddle or halter or playing with the horses.

Cindy, Hank and Trip have been invited to conduct demonstrations at a local high school for their Health Occupational Student Association and at ManeGait Horsemanship Center in McKinney, Texas. ManeGait is a non-profit therapeutic riding center where Cindy also takes Hank and Trip and has played with some of their participants. Cindy is studying to become a certified therapeutic instructor and is doing her internship at ManeGait where she also volunteers.

Hank and Trip had a story published about them in the *Allen Image Magazine* in January of this year and she plans on publishing a series of children’s books later this year called *The Adventures of Hank and Trip*. Hank is a very mischievous Left-Brain Introvert and is always getting into something, so he provides lots of topics for the books. Cindy lives on a small farm in Northeast Texas with her husband Wyatt, Hank, Trip and their various dogs and cat. Cindy has also attended several clinics with Christi Rains, 4-Star Parelli Professional. **ST**

Donna Blem – A Passion For Horses and a Drive To Help Others

Today, Donna Blem is a 2-Star Parelli Instructor, on the leadership team of the Parelli Horsemanship Fund, and co-founder and Executive Director of InStride Therapy Center in Florida. She is living her dream of helping others fulfill theirs, whether that dream is learning to communicate with and/or understanding their horse, learning to sit upright in the saddle, or perhaps learning to walk, regardless of their physical challenges, or even mastering the skills needed to succeed in business. Donna's life is devoted to helping others, and horses are at the heart of it, every step of the way.

Ever since Donna can remember, she's loved horses. Donna's parents got her a pony when she was six years old; she's had horses in her life ever since. She even managed to keep her horses when she went away to college. But she didn't just keep them—they kept her. It was in her senior year at college, while earning her degree in Business and Accounting, that horses helped her chart a life of helping others. She began volunteering at an equine-assisted therapeutic riding program run by Mary Nastan, a licensed physical therapist.

The program operated only on Saturdays, but the changes Donna saw in those children grabbed her heart and never let it go. Throughout that year Donna saw magic happen as the 18 to 20 children a week participated in the busy Saturday sessions. She remembers one little boy who, each month, became stronger and stronger. Eventually he was able to sit upright on the horse, unaided. She remembers the

day he took his first steps, even though all the doctors had said he would never walk.

Donna was so moved by the work Mary and the horses did to help the children that the very year she graduated from college, she and Mary got together, filed for their non-profit status, and created InStride Therapy Inc. Donna became certified as a therapeutic riding instructor right away.

For the first few years, they rented facilities and moved home base a few times. It was during these years that they also began working with the public schools in the area. They loaded their therapy horses in a trailer and set up right on school grounds to provide hippotherapy to children enrolled in special needs classes. It was a huge success and that program continues today.

InStride continued to grow and offer more therapeutic riding programs, changing lives and advancing possibilities for children every day. Donna knew they needed a place of their own. After a long search, they found the 76 acres that became their permanent home in 1998. It was very important to have enough land for the therapy horses to have room to kick up their heels in their off-duty hours.

It was also during these early years of InStride that Donna discovered Parelli Natural Horsemanship. She signed on in 2002 and began to study at home on her own. The things she learned in the Parelli Program helped her understand her horses, and it also helped her better understand the clients who came to InStride. She was so excited about what the Parelli Program taught her that, in 2006, she went to



the Parelli campus in Ocala, Florida for two weeks. She went back in 2007 and 2008 for more hands-on Parelli training. In 2009, Donna was accepted to join the Parelli Extern Program, which led the way for her to become a 2-Star Parelli Professional. Today she travels to teach students who are on their own Parelli journey. She also offers classes to boarders at InStride.

In early 2010, InStride opened their new facility, which provides indoor as well as outdoor riding arenas. Currently over 300 children a year take part in, and benefit from, the equine-assisted therapy programs offered by the staff of three full-time employees, five part-time employees and five contract therapists. And, of course, twelve wonderful therapy horses. InStride Therapy is recognized as the leading hippotherapy center in the southeastern United States and has been a member of the Professional

Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International since 1994.

The therapy horses, being the very basis of all the therapy programs at InStride, receive the best care. Being a therapy horse is a challenging and demanding job, so Donna has programs in place to keep them healthy, happy and loving their jobs. Certain volunteers are assigned specific duties to care for and exercise the horses outside their routine jobs in the therapy sessions, such as trail riding and playing games. This is a perfect use of Parelli's Seven Games and other Parelli techniques to keep the hard-working therapy horses in top shape, physically and mentally. Currently on the staff at InStride are two Level 3 Parelli students and several other volunteers who are enrolled in the Parelli Program.

Recently, Donna was invited to serve on the leadership team of the Parelli Horsemanship Fund, which

community



is the nonprofit formed to promote Pat's vision of "Making the world a better place for horses and humans." Donna had heard about the Parelli Horsemanship Fund awhile back and had sent a request to become part of sharing the vision. When Lori Northrup joined the Parelli team about ten months ago to direct the Horsemanship Fund, she saw Donna's request and invited her to become part of the team.

The Horsemanship Fund has four main areas of focus. The first is to establish more top quality professionals out in the world to be available for all

the Parelli students who are doing the home study on their own. The second is the therapeutic horsemanship effort, which of course are very important to Donna. The goal of this arm of the Horsemanship Fund is to make as many Parelli instructors as possible available to the therapeutic riding centers around the world to teach natural horsemanship to those involved, for the health and well-being of the horses who give so much. Third is horse welfare, which educates people on the issues that create unwanted horses and helps teach people involved in horse rescues how to be more successful in re-homing these horses. And fourth are youth programs, designed to empower the youth of today through education so they can be the leaders of tomorrow. Of course, all these things are close to Donna's heart and she is honored and excited to be part of this vibrant and thrilling undertaking of the Parelli organization.

Another exciting program that is taking place at InStride. Donna has recently begun a joint effort with the local YMCA, called Building Great Leaders. Building Great Leaders is a development program that teaches young folks to apply natural horsemanship lessons to gain the confidence needed to become leaders in whatever field they might choose to pursue. The confidence gained by working with and learning from the horses opens new horizons for the youths enrolled in this wonderful program. The horses allow the youths to express themselves, understand success and failure, and learn valuable lessons along the way. To learn more about this and other programs offered at InStride, visit their website www.instridetherapy.org.

Donna believes that a strong passion and sticking to your dreams can make anything happen. Donna, all the children and horses with dreams and passions thank you for sticking to yours. **ST**

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*Dutch Henry is a freelance writer and novelist who writes about "People & Horses Helping Horses & People." He resides in Virginia with Robin, his wife of 36 years, along with their horse, dogs, cats and chickens ... Dutch also does free "Therapy For Therapy Horse Clinics" at therapeutic riding centers across the country to help the horses maintain proper posture, free and easy movement, and body carriage. Because therapy horses can use a little therapy, too. You can reach Dutch at dutchhenry@hughes.net. He would love to hear from you. His novel *We'll Have the Summer* is available on Amazon and Dutch's website www.dutchhenryauthor.com.*

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Hunter/Jumpers: Keeping It Natural in Vermont

I would say that I was a typical horse-crazy girl when I started riding at age eight, four years ago. I was thrilled to have the chance to be riding and I had no clue about Love, Language and Leadership at all. I started at a Hunter/Jumper Barn called Beech Hill Farm, which is located in the Green Mountains of Vermont and is run by three extraordinary sisters, Claire, Mary and Betty, who are all official Parelli Level 1 graduates and are incredibly passionate about helping horses and humans compete in the Hunter/Jumper world naturally. Claire, Mary and Betty lead by example; they have competed in the Hunter/Jumper world for 47 years and continue to develop their skills as horsemen by learning Parelli from Licensed Parelli Professionals.

When the student is ready the teacher will appear - finding Casper

I never had the opportunity to pursue Parelli because I didn't own a horse until last year. My parents and I started to look for a free lease and I thought I wanted a 16-hand-or-bigger bay gelding that had done the Hunter/Jumper circuit and would take me around a 3' to 3' 3" Equitation course. We found that horse. The only problem was the price tag: \$1,000 a month to lease him. So my parents decided that it would be better if we could find a cheap horse that I could train

or finish. After looking at some horses and putting up signs, I was beginning to lose hope that I would find a horse. Then my mom got an email from a guy saying that he thought he had the perfect horse for me. I was overjoyed! We went to see him as soon as we could. That is when I met Diligent Knight, or Casper. Casper was not exactly what I pictured my perfect horse looking like at all. He is a 16-and-1/2-hand, gray, 5-year-old gelding, off-the-track Thoroughbred. Casper had never seen a Hunter/Jumper show, let alone been in one! But luckily for Casper, he could JUMP!

When I went to try out Casper, he was loosely tied to a post in the front of a little barn and his owner was brushing him. He seemed pretty left-brain when I think back on it now, but then I didn't know about Horsenality™ yet. I helped tack him up and his owner offered to ride him. So his owner jumped on and we went up the road to a big open field where he then warmed Casper up under saddle. Claire got on him next and then finally I rode him. After the day was over and I was back at Beech Hill Farm, Claire and I talked about Casper. Some of the things we were not crazy about were his training with draw reins and a twisted D-ring bit and the fact that he was green. Casper had also been heavily lunged with side reins. He was a prisoner. I could tell that he was unhappy. He would stand with his tack on bobbing his head



community

like he had his side reins on. It was sad. Even though he had some bad points, he also had lots of good ones: he could jump, we could ride him in a big open field, and Casper was so sensitive to me and so personable that I fell for him! We signed the lease agreement for six months with an option to buy at the end. I was thrilled!

An extrovert goes from normal to natural

A few weeks later, Casper and I were in the indoor arena at Beech Hill Farm one day after school and I started to notice that some of the other boarders were avoiding me and Casper as if they were scared of him. I could not figure out why. He would only explode if someone would clap or if another horse did something, and we also had a little bit of a steering issue, but still I would not call that horrible, would you? Oh, and exploding for Casper was to come straight off the ground. I guess it was a little scary, so when I did not want to ride Casper, I would lunge him, but that would only make him worse. Then Parelli came to my mind and I started to play with him and, not surprisingly, he got better. Granted, other people were still scared of my horse, but I didn't care because now I

wasn't! We were starting to become a team! That is one of the best feelings ever. Now I can ride Casper in a rope halter and do the Figure 8 Pattern at the walk and trot.

Entering the show ground environment with an ex-racehorse...it's not about the grandstands

A few months later I saw how much Parelli had helped me and my horse. It was time for our first show. We packed up the tack, brushes and, most of all, the Parelli halter, 22-foot Line, and Carrot Stick (oh, and the horse) and then off to the show grounds we went. When we got there, we took Casper off the trailer and he became an instant giraffe horse! Do you know what I mean? Head up, tail up and then the feet came up, all four of them, and they didn't come down for about four hours! So, being the savvy person I thought I was, I started to treat my Left-Brain Extrovert as a Right-Brain Extrovert and I started to disengage the hindquarters, over and over. What I learned later was that I should have been paying attention to his front end. I also learned the importance of understanding Horsenality.





The next show I went to, I got the amazing opportunity to have Sarah Grimm, a 2-Star Parelli Professional, come and help Casper and me at the show. She showed me how to handle Casper and how to be the leader that he needed me to be. I now understand how to “trust that he will respond but be ready to correct.” Casper made this easier because he has this pattern of pushing his shoulder into your space, then his head comes up, and then his feet come up. Sarah showed me how to interrupt this pattern and also how to see “what happens before what happens.” What Sarah taught me worked so well that I was able to get on and ride Casper briefly at the show; it was a big milestone for us. At the next show we went to, I was on his back for almost 45 minutes. I can only see us improving to the point where we can go into the ring and show. We plan to “take the time it takes” to help Casper be confident, responsive and safe in the showground environment. Being able to take him to shows without actually showing is a great development and preparation tool for us! I would like to thank Parelli for helping me learn how to be a better horse person.

Becoming a horseman

The most recent show I took Casper to was a big success. I did not get on him but I did successfully play all Seven Games, the Weave Pattern and the Figure 8 Pattern! It is so cool thinking back to the first show we went to, with the giraffe horse, compared to this one. One thing that I have really learned is just how far you can get if you just work hard, focus



and do the right thing at the right time. One of my new dreams is to become a Parelli Professional so that one day I can help someone with a dream that they can't seem to find a way to achieve and to help them feel good about what they are doing. At the last show Casper and I went to, I overheard some people talking and they said, “Isn't that that crazy gray over there?” Before Parelli, I would have taken that very hard and I would have been upset, but now I take it as a compliment. Not that I want a “crazy gray,” but that I can help Casper become the partner that I know he can be and do it with Love, Language, and Leadership. **ST**



Bill and Claudia Parkhurst: Spiritual Heartbeat of Parelli Florida

“What on earth is going on?” we asked ourselves as we pulled into Forever Spring Farm, home of Bill and Claudia

Parkhurst. People, horses and trailers were everywhere; even an event booth set up by the Photonic Red Light folks was there as an organizational center for the weekend’s activities. Everyone was milling about, walking this way and that. Horses and their partners in various clinics....smiles and happy faces wherever we looked.

The Parkhurst property is in Williston, Florida. Truly an “off site” Parelli wonderland, it features large open pastures, trail riding pathways through the forest, two well-appointed play areas with obstacles underneath the magnificent “Live Oaks.” On the hottest days there’s comfort to be found in the shade offered by the sprawling branches of these incredibly beautiful trees. There is even a raised viewing area so that a dozen or so of your very best friends can come by and watch the action.

Spirit

The “we” was me – Dave Thompson, and my girlfriend, Stephanie Locker. The “what” turned out to be another kind-hearted and giving gesture by the Parkhursts. We had apparently crashed the party and were we ever glad we did! We found ourselves in the middle of a 2-day fundraising event put on for the benefit of the very popular Parelli 3-Star instructor, Jerry Williams. Jerry suffered a terrible accident last year that left him with a degree of brain trauma. He has faced this injury with courage. His openness and willingness to talk about his challenges, as well as his recovery, has been an inspiration to his many loyal students and colleagues. According to Jerry, he just isn’t “himself,” although you’d never know it, talking to him now. However, for Jerry and his wonderfully supportive and loving wife Bonnie, there were hurdles yet to overcome. What was required next was an expensive medical diagnostic for which he did not have health insurance coverage. Understanding the position Jerry and Bonnie were in, Bill and Claudia were asked to offer their time, their home, all their facilities, as well as their organizational skills. Out of all that, this highly successful fundraiser netted several thousands of dollars. It was yet another example of a spirit of giving in the Parelli community that helped put Jerry and Bonnie further along on their road to recovery.

Environment

I’d like to take a step back to the early days of “Forever Spring” farm. They first walked onto the land in 1990. Bill and Claudia were somehow drawn to this very special place. There was a spiritual feel to the property. I’ve felt this before myself. I’ve had a headache driving into their property and then later on realized the headache was gone – and sometimes felt the headache return after I had left. A feeling of calm does seem to come over anyone driving up the laneway, past the ponds and into the courtyard that sits between home and barn. From childhood dreams of wanting to look out their windows and see horses, they designed a layout using visual sight lines out to the twin ponds and the fields that lay beyond. From just about anywhere in their home, their herd of Morgan horses can be seen making their way from front fields to back – each side offering its own unique view. Located on 50 beautiful acres, the property sits in the middle of thousands of acres of pasture and



community



Florida scrub, with its graceful hardwood trees, palmettos, brush and tall pines. Peaceful and serene, its landscapes cause visitors to step back from their busy lives and take pause. This is where taking the time it takes - to take it all in - is well worth the time it takes! Horses seem calmer here, more attentive, more connected. It is a true paradise for the horseman.

Back in the early days they built a home with an attached apartment. This was so that Bill's mother could come and live there. She had many happy and fulfilling years there. Connected to the home for safety and convenience, the arrangement offered a degree of independence for all. Time, however, eventually had its way and changes occurred within the family, which affected a new opportunity. Claudia suggested the idea of renting the apartment and other spare rooms. This opened the door to new beginnings for them and the many visiting Parelli students who now began to stay there during their courses. And so began a tradition of having the Parelli world and their world become intertwined.

Introduction to the Savvy world

The Parkhursts had first come into the Parelli world back in the early 2000s. At the time, Bill was president of a handicapped riding program. It was through

the riding program that they first heard of Parelli. A benefactor had donated to them a "Parelli horse." This captured their interest and launched Claudia into her first Level 1 clinic with Parelli Professional Nita Jo Rush, and subsequent to that, their first Savvy Conference in Colorado in 2001. Being exposed to "a self-empowering program" rang true for Bill, a forward-thinking, retired corporate executive. He was very impressed that the Parellis encouraged teachings that went far beyond the physical nature of the horse. He saw firsthand how people can improve their own lives through horsemanship and, in doing so, bring about a connection and personal growth that can last a lifetime. They were both captivated by the people they met there. There was a warmth and friendliness that drew them into the program. It wasn't long before Claudia (a tried and true Left-Brain Extrovert) tested for her original Level 1 at a barbeque hosted many years ago by Parelli President Mark Weiler. (As a side note, Mark Weiler holds a special place in my own daughter's heart. It was at a Savvy Conference that Seanna showed Mark a DVD of her playing at Liberty and riding her horse "Bones" bareback and bridleless. Mark immediately invited her to attend their Florida campus despite only being 13. Seanna remembers with great fondness that day

and the tears of pure joy as she accepted Mark's kind gesture.) As the father of a daughter with severe challenges, Bill Parkhurst recalls with great fondness and empathy the strength of bond he saw shared between Pat Parelli and his son Caton.

Since that early start, several hundred students of both the Parelli program and the "Chi Institute," a school teaching Chinese medicine to veterinarians, have enjoyed the comforts of home while away from home in the Parkhurst household. People from almost every walk of life have come to stay here. Business owners, housewives, surgeons, veterinarians, investment bankers and even a set designer from Cirque Du Soleil have stayed under their roof. Name a country and someone from there has been by for a stay. Germany, Zimbabwe, India, China, Saudi, Switzerland, England...the list goes on and on. They have seen people struggling with adversity in their own lives still manage to travel the globe in order to attend the campus courses. They have shared themselves with those suffering through personal issues and lost careers to others enjoying life at the top of their game. To one and all, their home is an open invitation to come in, sit down, relax, learn and enjoy.

Many well-known and now famous Parelli students have shared their dinner table: Nita Jo Rush, Jerry Williams, Jesse Peters, Sam Caporn, Kristi Smith and Dave Ellis to name just a few. Says Aimee Brimhall, long time friend of the Parkhursts, "Knowing Bill and Claudia for a number of years now, there is always a smile on their face and an extended hand to help. Their softness and high regard for their horses is always obvious. We are so lucky to have them in the horse community." And of course I would be negligent if I didn't include in that list of Parelli VIPs, our most famous instructors, Linda and Pat Parelli. Says Linda, "I can't think of a more beautiful and warm-hearted couple than Bill and Claudia. They are so natural, friendly and helpful. They are also very dedicated to animals, keeping it natural with horses, spreading the Parelli message and helping others to succeed in their own journey."

Support

From the first moment I met them, I knew they were special. With a smile and a twinkle in mischievous eyes, they welcomed me into their home. At that particular time, I was staying there and sharing the house with a couple of other Fast Track students.



One of the other guests tried hard to hide in her room under the guise of "studying." However, the laughter and camaraderie coming from the living room eventually drew her out – perhaps as sense of safety for a Right-Brain Introvert? Tradition has it that after a full day it was time to join everyone in the living room, sit around the fire place and share some of the ups and downs of the day. Claudia is a life coach and always seems to know the right things to say. You might get a hug or be treated to a humorous anecdote that will make you laugh and lighten your mood. Or if deemed necessary, you might get a kick in the pants to get you moving forward again. They care enough to congratulate you on the peaks of your day and the savvy to support you through the valleys.

A lot of this wisdom was born out of Claudia's experience working at the Parelli mercantile. The mercantile was more than just a store. It was a meeting place. It was a place to relax and socialize. Students went there and poured out their hearts, vented their frustrations as well as told of their wondrous days when blazing epiphanies came their way. After a course would end, Claudia asked students what they

community

learned the most, what really had a strong impact on them. She tells me that almost to a student the usual answer was that of self-revelation. They came to learn horsemanship and came away with a better understanding of themselves.

You might recognize Claudia from her photos. Some time back she was featured along with her very special group of friends known as “The Savvy Sisters.” For years, this group of women met weekly to enjoy each others’ company and work on their savvy. There was a core group of seven women and as a group they developed a salute that is uniquely their own. We can’t show you that salute here – you’ll just have to ask her for a demonstration yourself!

Letting Them Know You Care

In addition to the many things they have contributed to the people and horses of the area, Bill and Claudia have also created a local dog rescue, “WAG,” the Williston Animal Group. They have adopted out over 1,100 dogs since starting up the shelter. In addition to the dogs they have saved, they can also claim fame

for finding homes for a ferret, a donkey, a couple of geese and even some pigs. If that weren’t enough, they manage to abscond with a few and bring them home with them. The usual number of dogs in their own home at any given time is five or six. None is cuter or more lovable than Sally Taylor. Sally is a beagle mixed with “something.” Sally was found in a ditch. She was pregnant, had a broken leg and was covered with stinging fire ants. It is a wonder how this lovable dog could have ever been so horribly mistreated. I don’t think there’s anyone – with a heart – that could look at the photos from her rescue and not want to cry. She can, however, be a disobedient little dog at times (he said jokingly). I’ve seen Bill bend over and tell her in good natured tones to “stop wagging your tail Sally Taylor”.....only to have that tail vibrate to sonic speed.

God bless people like Bill and Claudia for what they have done for so many unfortunate animals.

Another part of their busy lives has been their involvement in the driving world. They have competed for years at Florida’s “Live Oaks” Combined Driving Event. For over eight years, they were in the competition and now continue to volunteer building the course and helping in any way they can. While there, we got to know a couple of the old timers who were from Bill and Claudia’s era . They seem to know everyone and call them friends.

We were back in Canada only a couple of weeks when we heard that “Bo,” Bill’s favourite horse, passed away. To underscore their love and ability with animals and their support of people, here is Bo’s obituary written by Claudia as it appeared upon his loss.

Twenty eight years ago, a two year old Bay Morgan colt came into the life of Bill Parkhurst and the two of them were destined to create a unique partnership that would bring joy to them and to many people whose lives they touched. They launched their show career in the Morgan show ring bringing home over 80 championships. Retiring from the show ring they went on to compete successfully in the carriage world. In singles, pairs and tandem, Bo was a star. Bo was a star in the other arenas, the roman riding team at Equitana in Kentucky, an extra in the movie Stroke of Genius in Georgia, in numerous parades in Dunnellon, Ocala, Reddick and Williston, and in Morgan horse demos. Bo’s star shone the greatest in arenas outside of the show ring. He brought joy to the patients at Superior Memory Care facility where



“ God bless people like Bill and Claudia for what they have done for so many unfortunate animals.

Bill's mom and her friends rode in his carriage around the parking lot. He delivered many beautiful brides to their weddings. He gave many timid riders their very first ride, one in particular was an 80 year old woman who had never been on a horse. He helped Santa Claus deliver presents to the children at Hillcrest school. He gave Bill the pleasure of watching his profoundly retarded daughter ride his favourite Morgan. He even went to a horse camp with our niece. Bo was a trustworthy and willing partner. Bill and Bo shared a relationship based on mutual respect and affection, they were a joy to behold. Today, our dear friend and family member, "Bridlewood Bo Brumel" did his last road trot to the rainbow bridge where he will be waiting for us. He is without a doubt the "best little boy in the barn." UNTIL ONE HAS LOVED AN ANIMAL, PART OF THEIR SOUL REMAINS UNAWAKENED.



Feel

This past winter found me in the Parkhurst kitchen making dinner. While working away at the stove, I was making small talk with Bill and one of the other guests at his home, a bright and attractive young woman. She was a DVM there to study at the Chi Institute. I looked over the kitchen island for a moment and, to my surprise, saw Bill take this young lady's hand into his. They stared at each other silently for a few moments. I had no idea what was going on and did my best to busy myself without interrupting what was obviously a connection between Bill and his house guest. I could not have anticipated what happened next. After a few moments, Bill put his other hand on top of hers and gently held it. She burst into tears, sobbing her heart out. Bill just told her over and over that everything would be okay. Bill Parkhurst is an ex-COO of a large investment bank. He was also an executive vice president of an international shipping company. In other words, not someone whose resume would suggest a man with this level of perception and sensitivity. If you didn't know him and made your judgement on his credentials only, then you might suspect him to be more of a "rule with an iron glove" type of person. He had, however, developed an ability to read and understand people as well as he does horses. A unique man with gifted intellect and insight, he knew that under the thin veneer of social presentation, this woman was hurting. I, however, was completely

oblivious to her inner turmoil. Bill somehow saw it and connected with her in a way that allowed her to just let go. With her inhibitions set free, she allowed Bill to see her fears and doubts, which up until that moment, she had been trying hard to keep to herself. How uplifting it must have been for her to unburden herself of that heaviness of her load with someone who understood and cared in a safe and non-judgemental manner. I'll never forget that moment. How often in our own lives are we a witness to something truly moving? This young lady was at a crossroads in her life and the gift that Bill brings to his horses was also one he was able to share with a human. There are sincere and talented horsemen out there who can show us a connection and bring a tear to our eyes while we witness the reality of bond and of trust. Something special and unique shared between two souls – whether they be human or horses.

Transitions

We all work on transitions of one form or another. Most often we think of them as going from a walk to a trot, a trot to a canter. Sometimes transitions is what we live through as we become something we weren't. Stephanie experienced such a transition at Forever Spring with the help and support of the Parkhursts. For the past year and a half, Stephanie has doggedly tried to get a grip on the teachings of the natural horse world. Her background in the "normal" world gave her very little to go on in terms of thinking of

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things from the horse's point of view. Over time, she discovered bits and pieces and gradually "saw" more. Ears pinned, tail swishing, as well as looks of exuberance were starting to appear on her radar. Try as she might, though, she admittedly felt like a stranger to our ways. Tangled up in ropes, never quite sure just what the right answer was, she was often frustrated with her lack of progress.

Inspiration came by way of Claudia. She is a very fit, energetic, and exuberant 67-year-old. She treated us to a display of cantering and flying lead changes on Willow, her Morgan horse she's raised since birth. No reins, arms out wide, riding full out and in perfect harmony. Think of the bow scene in the movie *Titanic* ("I'm the king of the world!") and you get the picture. Stephanie was blown away.

Over the next three weeks we were ensconced in the Parelli world of Bill and Claudia Parkhurst. Every day we were in lessons, rode on our own, had visits by other exceptional horse people and even took a 5-day intensive Level 4 clinic with Jerry Williams. We also audited a play day put on and attended by many Parelli instructors who took the day "off" and were able to spend time with their own horses. What fun that was, watching some of Parelli's best out having fun. During the 2-day fundraiser, Stephanie was able to see people at every level. From beginner to expert, she began to realize that it was okay to make mistakes, that everything she did was either okay or it was an opportunity for a do-over. From this observation she felt empowered to go out and do the best

she could. She was able to take ownership of her own horsemanship and allow the horse to be her mirror.

The three weeks that Steph and Cakes, Carmen Doyle's beautiful Morgan gelding, teamed up, which was to be a golden opportunity for them both. We were initially told this horse wasn't encouraged to canter and mostly wouldn't, and that tossing his head in the air while riding was "just what she did." On our first day, he did threaten to bite as we walked into his stall (and we were being polite – honest!). By Day 3 though, this little Morgan had quite an attitude makeover. Stephanie and Cakes clicked. He nickered when he saw Stephanie coming. By the midway point of our vacation, he was happily cantering, and by the end of our time there, he was being responsive to focus and feel and could do Figure 8s at the trot without using the reins. Stephanie had changed, moved forward, transitioned from someone befuddled with a 20' rope to a composed and very happy natural horsewoman. So went the horse as well, from crabby Cakes to happy Cakes. We wanted to sneak him home with us back to Canada but just couldn't seem to talk him into getting into the suitcase. Where is Pat Parelli when you really need him?

The Magic

And finally, there is the "porch." The porch is where guests sit out on starlit evenings and share their stories. The background is filled with the sounds of horses running about, hooves pounding the ground as they played under the night sky. Sounds from the ponds that are only heard after dark, frogs calling out looking for that special someone, and if you are lucky, even an owl will join the discussion wondering "whoooo whooo" is on the porch that night. The porch is where the ice cream magically shows up. Where the stories get funnier and the laughter gets louder. There's even a sign that states "what happens on the porch – stays on the porch!" Bill's true love is, of course, his lovely wife Claudia. His other "true love" is his ice cream. And on any given evening, you may catch him sitting on his chair out on the porch in his pyjamas, enjoying his favourite treat. It was there, enjoying his ice cream, that Bill shared with me their mission plan for Forever Spring Farm: "To provide a safe and nurturing space where people connect with their invincible spirit and where master teachers ply their trade." Mission accomplished, Parkhursts. Mission Accomplished. **ST**

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Gratitude-itis

I have a condition. It's rather uncontrollable. To the Right-Brain Introverts of the world, it may seem a bit frightening. Every once in a while, the symptoms become manifest in the physical world of words. I think the condition is called "gratitude-itis," but I can't be sure. I've never been diagnosed by a professional, but I'm pretty certain that's what it is. The prognosis is grim. I will have this condition forever. And now, because of an event and a reflection afterwards, you are my next victim because I must share the gratitude in my heart.

I am an artist and a small business owner. I travel a lot to and from festivals and shows where I sell my jewelry. Yesterday, my husband and I were in Tennessee, driving to 'strike' one of my shows and bring home the shop, the displays, the product. It was early. We were just sipping the first hot sips of coffee while the truck rumbled along a 55 mph busy county road.

From a small distance away, we saw a truck stopped in our lane with its hazards on, blocking traffic. A man was out on the other side of the highway directing cars around it. As it was our turn to slow and pass this vehicle, I glanced over to see what was happening. Before it passed and became a memory, I saw a small horse just off the side of the road next to a brick wall, and a man trying to keep her there. "Loose horse," I thought as we went around the truck and kept driving. About five seconds later I asked my husband to pull off the road. Just one of those things.

As we walked back up the highway, nothing had changed. The small filly was still in the corner of the brick wall, the truck was still blocking the road, the man was still trying to keep her there, and another man was directing traffic. But as we came closer, I noticed that the 'very small horse' was actually a baby, somewhere older than a weanling, but not quite a yearling. And she was covered in blood.

My instinct as a very empathic person was to look away from the gruesome sight. I don't do well with blood and flesh torn open, creatures and people in pain. But I can pull it together in an emergency (even if I might faint later), and as I assessed the situation more. The man keeping her off the road explained to me that she belonged inside the brick walled area, that the owners had just brought her home last night, that they were running around trying to find a lead rope of some kind, and that no one knew what to do. There was a general sense of panic. I thought she had been hit by a car.

The prognosis is grim. I will have this condition forever. And now, because of an event and a reflection afterwards, you are my next victim because I must share the gratitude in my heart.



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herd of two when that dog started to circle the horse and get too close, and walk with her, starting and stopping at thresholds every couple of feet into a larger paddock away from the road and in through the gate.

My journey with Parelli officially began with a 22-year-old Right-Brain Introvert Quarter Horse mare named Abby who came to The United States Equine Rescue League as an extreme starvation case. After helping with her rehabilitation, I eventually adopted her in May of 2008. She gave me three and a half wonderful years of learning and friendship before passing away a happy horse in September of 2011.

When we reached the back of the property and were just about to enter the gate, this timid filly who was so confused and in such shock and pain turned to me and was finally able to look at me, and she touched her bloody muzzle to my shoulder. I still have a

bloodstain on that shirt from that moment as it lays in the laundry. It was a communication that in past years with horses, I would have absolutely missed.

After speaking with the women and verifying that the vet was called and on her way, we walked off the property, and about 50 feet down the road I broke into huge chest heaving sobs. My husband, bless his soul, knew it was coming. But I was so proud of myself for having been able to hold it together until she no longer needed me to lead, to repeat over and over, “you’re okay, you’re okay,” and wait until she was.

Many people come to Parelli because of inspiration. More come out of desperation. I was one of the former. I love the idea that it’s about “way more than riding,” and I love having a program to excel in, moving from task to task, level to level, developing my



DOUGLAS MUMAW



A young Right-Brain/Left-Brain Extrovert Thoroughbred gelding, Kahlil came to me after being passed from owner to owner. Proving to require a bit of personal rehab himself, we are now leaping and bounding through the Parelli program. We have officially passed Level 2 On Line and are playing in Level 2 FreeStyle and Level 3 On Line and Liberty.

mind, body, emotions at the same time as my horse is developing his or hers. I love playing with green balls and orange sticks and running around like a maniac in extroverted friendship with my horse.

But in reality, when I reflect on that moment, I realized that while Parelli is about way more than riding, it's also about way more than balls and sticks and contact and levels and "It's not about the....". And in this ambiguous statement, one realizes EXACTLY what it's about. It's about the simple knowing of what to do, or how to be. It's about being able to understand a horse simply by seeing, reading, feeling, and then proceeding with certainty in what that horse needs, right then, in that moment.

I think if that little filly could speak, her voice would be the voice of thousands of horses worldwide speaking about students of the Parelli Program. I

think she would say thank you. I know I do. I know that right now I am. Thankful. For giving us all a space for never-ending self-improvement, for personal growth within a horsemanship program, for never ever allowing us to forget what the horse is, and why. Without you guys, without the education, the instructors, the knowledge you are continuously learning and passing down, I might have passed that little horse up on the road thinking, "I have no idea how I could help...". She might still have been okay. She might not have. But at that moment, I made a difference because of all that I have been given through Parelli.

Gratitude-itis. Pass it on. **ST**

Savvy Racing



I love living in Pagosa Springs – in spring, summer and fall. Winter... NOT SO MUCH! It is difficult to keep up with my horsemanship during the cold, snowy and icy winter months and it is simply no fun. So when my friend and fellow Parelli Instructor, Theresa Zenner, suggested visiting her and her fiancé Rhett Fincher in Florida, I grabbed the opportunity, loaded up my horses and headed south. It was quite the trip, but it was so worth it!

After meeting in Pat's Mastery Program, Rhett and Theresa moved to Florida last year. Prior to Rhett's involvement with Parelli, following his family's tradition, he wanted to find a better way to train racehorses. In his blog "An Introduction to Savvy Racing" he said: "I remember being 6 or 7 years old and thinking I needed to magically find a way to talk to horses and explain how great their life would be if they would just relax and run very fast. I thought it was probably a Dr. Doolittle fantasy to be able to actually talk to the horses and have them understand and respond accordingly, but I knew from watching trick horses at rodeos, there had to be a way. I left home right after graduation, looking to work and learn from other racehorse trainers so I could pick out the best techniques from each and start training racehorses for myself... I've probably ridden somewhere around 250,000 miles on horseback in my lifetime as I close in on 43 years of age, so I have lots of experience, but not a lot made much sense until I stumbled upon a Parelli Natural Horsemanship Tour Stop."

Through the foundation and support they had received from Parelli Natural Horsemanship, Rhett

A man and a woman are shown from the chest up, wearing cowboy hats and sunglasses. They are both smiling and looking towards the right. The woman is in the foreground, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and a dark belt with a rope. The man is behind her, also wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark belt. They appear to be sitting on horses, though only the tops of the horses' heads are visible in the foreground.

“ I needed to
magically find a way
to talk to horses.

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and Theresa felt this was the perfect time to make a difference in the racehorse industry. Thanks to Ellen Carroll, a Parelli student from Ocala, FL, they had been able to lease a beautiful horse property not far from the Parelli Campus in Florida. They wanted to prove Pat's vision that horses can perform at higher levels "through communication, psychology and understanding versus mechanics, fear and intimidation."

I first had met Theresa during my Parelli 1-Star Instructor Course in 2009, and we have been friends ever since. I am sure you remember Rhett, 3-star Parelli Instructor and Senior Horse Specialist, from the Colt Start and Wild Horse Taming events last summer. I had met him a couple times at the ranch

and knew that he had a thorough background in horse racing, but never had the opportunity to really talk to him. As I found out during my time in Florida, Rhett is really not a man of many words, but boy is he good with horses! Watching him opened up a whole new world of horse development for me.

I have to admit, I had never really paid much attention to the racehorse industry since it was not a horse-friendly sport in my opinion. So, when Rhett and Theresa asked me to set up their online presence and social media for their business, Savvy Racing, I realized that I didn't know a thing about horse racing. Obviously, that had to change!

I am passionate about helping this world to become a better place for horses and humans, so I was excited to be a part of this enterprise. Rhett and Theresa are developing future race horses mentally, emotionally and physically to enhance their capabilities as an athlete at the track. The Parelli foundation will hopefully give those horses a value that will prevent their abandonment at the end of their racing career.

“Watching him opened up a whole new world of horse development for me.”

During my two-month stay, I visited the training center several times to observe how Rhett and Theresa used the Parelli Program to prepare future racehorses for their job. On my first day, Rhett invited me to play with several of the two-year-olds and Rhett played with and rode Valor, their four-year-old race horse. He prepared him on the ground first and I paid close attention to how little he seemed to ask and how particular he was about the answers. Move a little here, make a step over with your hind end, now move the shoulder over and back up a couple steps... good, now you can eat! He then bridled and saddled Valor at liberty. Wouldn't all race horses love to start out their day like this?

While still playing with the two-year-olds, I noticed that Rhett had left with a filly named Ellie. I had just finished playing with her and Ellie had been a confident, pushy girl on the ground, so I wanted to see what he was up to. I found him close to the entrance gate of the ranch. He was asking Ellie under saddle to do circles, hind end and front end yields. She wasn't all too happy being away from the herd, so Rhett just took his time. He eventually moved her onto the track and played with her while slowly moving at a walk towards the start gate. Once in a while, another trainer cantered by. I was wondering what they were thinking while watching Rhett asking for lateral flexion with his Carrot Stick at a walk on the racetrack.

When Rhett finally arrived at the start gate, he played the Friendly Game and "Touch It"... Ellie's mental and emotional state still jumped back and forth, from "Yes, I'm relaxed" to "No I'm not, and I want to go home!" It was awesome to see how Rhett just stuck with her, staying calm and passive in the proper position. Eventually she slowed down, lowered her head and calmly walked off.

I was wondering how Rhett would continue to support her to gain confidence away from her herd. Clearly this filly, while being pushy and dominant around the familiar barn, was quite bothered being out by herself. To no surprise, Theresa later told me that Rhett and her had discussed the filly's confidence issues and had developed a plan to further help her to become braver while being away from her herd. Theresa took her trusted levels horse Kip to the training track. She and Kip accompanied Rhett and Ellie on the track for several days. Kip, being a "steady eddy," provided much-needed reassurance



to unconfident Ellie. Over a period of a few days, Rhett was able to increase the distance between his herd of two and Theresa and Kip. On day four he was able to continue developing Ellie on his own.

Even if you are not into racehorses, the techniques that Rhett and Theresa applied work for all horses. Giving your horse a steady buddy to rely on and playing Approach & Retreat will help your trail horse too!

Theresa and Rhett want to make a difference in the race horse industry, leading by example and proving that horses can perform at higher levels "through communication, psychology and understanding versus mechanics, fear and intimidation." I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to learn first-hand from Rhett and Theresa. If you feel every racehorse should have a start like this, please help us spread the word! "Like" the Savvy Racing Facebook page and check out my videos showcasing Rhett and Theresa working on the training track and feel free to share those with your friends as well. **ST**



Natural Horsemanship, History & Western Performance Sports

All throughout history, people have used horses for transportation, for work, and for sport. We're naturally competitive, so it makes sense that racing was probably the first "sport" involving horses – even at a walk, we like to be able to say, "My horse is faster!" From there, it probably transitioned into jumping – "My horse can jump higher than yours!" Using horses in warfare was the next development; with that came the building blocks of dressage, and frankly, true horsemanship in general. To have a horse that would respond in the blink of an eye, even in a stressful situation like war, was incredibly valuable. It stems from a great Greek general named Xenophon, who said something to the effect of, "We must treat the horses with respect, so they will be our partners."

The next development, at least in certain parts of the world, was using horses for cattle. These

techniques were brought to North America by the Spanish, who moved throughout Mexico and what is now California, and who eventually created something called the California Vaqueros. Now, these Vaqueros were renowned for their high level of horsemanship; I was fortunate enough to meet a few Vaqueros as I was growing up in California, including Arnold Rojas, author of *These Were The Vaqueros*.

To wrap up this history lesson, let's focus on what all these people, all these horsemen, had in common: ambition. If we really want to do something great with our horses, we need to start with ambition, whether it's to have a horse be a perfect partner in wartime, while handling cattle, or anything else.

But ambition alone isn't enough. It has to be tempered with principles. When people get ambitious, sometimes it moves them towards their principles, and sometimes it leads them away from their principles. After principles comes patience, and after patience comes an understanding of sequence. For example, when you start building a house, you need to know the proper sequence. If you start building the roof before the foundation, well, you're going to run into some trouble.

“ If we really want to do something great with our horses, we need to start with ambition.



education



BRYAN C. MORGAN | IMAGE BOTIQUE

With that in mind, the question for us becomes this: what relevance does the Parelli program have in Western Performance sports?

First, I like to think of it as bigger than the Parelli program; I like to think of the Parelli message, which boils down to this: 1) putting the relationship first, 2) foundation before specialization, and 3) getting you and your horse hooked on never-ending self-improvement. In addition, it's important to point out that the Parelli program is a foundation program. We are not a reining horse program or a cutting program or anything like that. What we try to do is build a great foundation, no matter the discipline that interests you.

In fact, it's when you reach these disciplines - both Western and dressage - that the foundation becomes essential. To be successful at this point, the horse must be confident, curious, sensitive and responsive. It takes a great, solid foundation to achieve those four qualities at a high level.

Now, on to the Western Performance sports. It's generally accepted that there are three major sports: reining, reined cow horse, and cutting. You

can include all the roping sports as well; these are the sports that I consider traditional "Western Performance" sports. Regardless of sport, if a Western sportsman wants to be able to achieve straight lines, circles, lateral moves, and tight, quick moves, he needs to perfect his reining technique. To achieve this naturally, without knocking the try out of the horse, is a win-win: the rider is rewarded with results, and the horse feels like the luckiest horse in the world.

The next sport is reined cow horse, where the rider performs a reining pattern and then take a cow down the fence. A cow is brought into the arena after you perform your reining pattern, and you do your best to keep the cow up against the fence. Really, you're training the cow, from the beginning, to respect your horse's presence and to turn away from him. So you go back and forth, staying in front of him. Once you feel you can control the cow, where he's turning when and where you predict, you get behind him and send him down the long end of the arena, get in front of him, turn him around and bring him to the center of the arena to circle him. When this sport was developed, in the 18th and 19th century, this was a very

”

practical skill, particularly the ability to circle the cow at the end. Similar to reining, these maneuvers take time and a solid foundation.

There's a bigger umbrella term that cutting falls under, and that's "ranch horse versatility." Ranch horse versatility is the ability to cut and sort cattle, picking an individual out of the herd, being able to drive a cow to a specified location. It's a very practical skill, and as we noted earlier, humans are naturally competitive. Is it any wonder we've turned ranch horse versatility into a contest? Cutting generally involves a very specialized horse with a strong play drive; when you select a cow, they understand. You can drop the reins, and the horse will hold the cow himself. You just need to make sure to hang on!

These days, they've combined these events into a sort of Western Performance trifecta. It's called the Bridle Spectacular, and it combines all three: reining, reined cow horse, and cutting. My son Caton and I recently participated in one of these events; my horse, Slider, and I won reserve champion in our division, and Caton was the champion in his division

Once you've got that foundation, the opportunities are limitless.

as well. There's another competition where roping is added as well; I'm very interested in this, so keep an eye on Parelli Connect for updates in the future!

To conclude, these Western Performance sports are fascinating to me, and witnessing how "foundation before specialization" applies to them is very exciting. Once you've got that foundation, the opportunities are limitless. As is the case with any competition, success in the arena is important, and without experience, it's difficult to achieve that success. It's only been over the last two years that Caton and I have been able to participate and compete often, but we're both getting better. Plus, competing just adds more fuel to the fire of ambition - to learn, to succeed, and to demonstrate that the Parelli message has a place in Western Performance. **ST**

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What Horsenalties™ Teach Us

One night at a dinner party, the discussion turned to Horsenality™ and some of the frustrations we experience with them. As I sat listening, I decided to ask everyone what they thought each Horsenality had to teach us. Here is the result:

No Rules	Friendliness
Reverse Psychology	Slow Down!

While there are many words you can ascribe to the overall skill of training horses, like “patience,” “savvy,” and “leadership,” the words I’ve chosen above are the key qualities you need to master with each Horsenality. When you discover and apply them, you will have better success; in fact I would say that the reason you may still have issues with your

horse is because you have not quite yet learned to do what he or she needs.

LEFT-BRAIN EXTROVERT - No Rules!

Left-Brain Extroverts are the original rule-breakers. They discover what your rules are and then they challenge you, so that means when you have no rules, they can’t find your edges and the game is over. Left-brain horses are dominant; they challenge your leadership every day, every moment. On many occasions, I have students ask me if their Left-Brain Extrovert horse will ever settle down and get easier. What do you think? Remember, we are talking innate characteristics here, just like human personality, so the answer is, “Well, no!” Either you’re going to bring out the best in your horse, or the worst.

Here are some ‘rules’ that people expect of horses and that Left-Brain Extroverts love to defy: “I expect my horse to be...”

- Calm
- Obedient
- Consistent
- Responsive

Hmm. Sounds like the complete opposite of this free-spirited horse’s idea of fun! If he was wearing a

t-shirt, on the front it would say “Born to defy!” On the back it would say “You’re not the boss of me.” So the more you try to make your Left-Brain Extrovert behave, the worse it gets. But the more you encourage him and pique his interest, the more connected and willing he becomes. But that’s hard for us humans to do with horses, because we have our agendas. Here’s the key: put aside your agenda for a moment. Give your Left-Brain Extrovert what he needs and he’ll give you what you want. This Horsenality will teach you to follow Pat’s mantra: “There are no rules in Parelli, only principles: The Eight Principles.”

LEFT-BRAIN INTROVERT – Reverse Psychology

Left-Brain Introverts are experts at knowing what you want and not doing it.

I remember the first time I heard Pat talk about using reverse psychology, but it took me years to understand what that meant, let alone know how to use it. I had to have my own Left-Brain Introvert before I really got it. Thanks to Remmer, he got me to learn vital lessons in strategic motivation.

As anyone who has a Left-Brain Introvert knows, the Circling Game and going forward are the two most challenging things to achieve with any degree of refinement, consistency or good expression; it’s not that the Left-Brain Introvert doesn’t want to go forward, he just doesn’t want to do it when you ask him to! If your Left-Brain Introvert was wearing a t-shirt, on the front it would say “Born to argue” and on the back it would say “You’re not the boss of me.”

Here is what makes the Left-Brain Introvert less responsive and more cranky:

- Asking for more energy (using spank or spur)
- Getting more animated (you using more energy than the horse!)
- Boredom, lack of purpose
- Lack of reward

You need to do the opposite of all of the above! Ask for less energy, use less energy, have a purpose and reward your horse. And reverse psychology? It’s easy... rather than trying to make your horse go faster, ask him to go slower and slower and slower. You’ll be amazed at how that will get his interest up. And once he offers his energy, don’t ask for a lot. Reward him sooner rather than later by slowing down, resting a moment, and giving him some scratches or a cookie.

When he sees what’s in it for him, he’ll have more incentive to respond.

RIGHT-BRAIN EXTROVERT – Friendliness

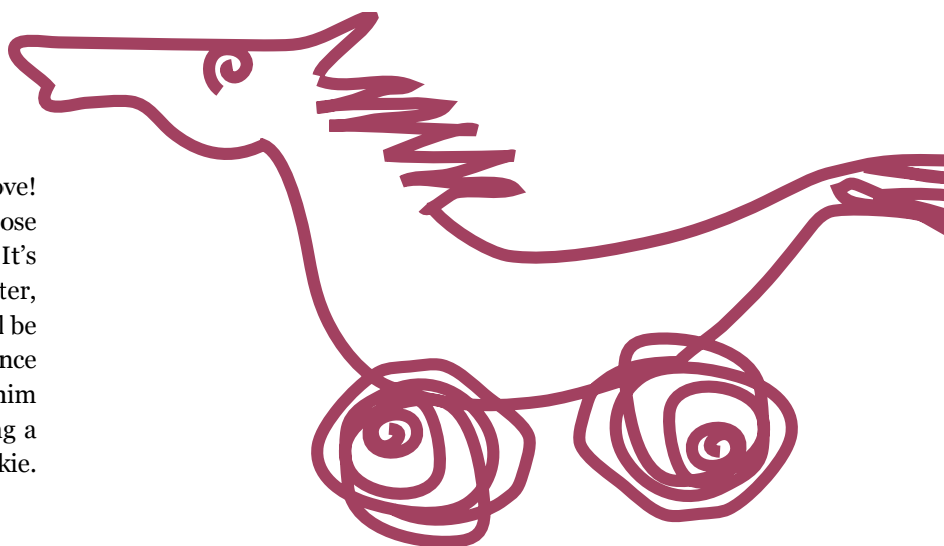
Right-Brain Extroverts are the prey animal personified (or should I say horse-i-fied?). That instinctive flight reaction and intense need for safety is really close to the surface in the Right-Brain Extrovert, so being able to convince them that you are friend and not foe is the major key here.

Pat says it perfectly: “How can you prove to your horse that you are not going to eat him?” That is the ultimate purpose of the Friendly Game; it’s way more than just petting your horse or desensitizing him to stimuli. On your Right-Brain Extrovert’s t-shirt, it would say “Born to run!”

Here are some of the behaviors that can make your Right-Brain Extrovert horse believe that you are not friendly:

- Fear – translates as negative energy
- Frustration – translates as aggression
- Judgment or blame – translates as predatory
- Direct-line approach, goal-oriented actions – translates as predatory

Right-Brain Extroverts will teach you to be less direct-line and goal-oriented and have a more friendly approach. Of course you must have goals, but they cannot be what you want your horse to do right now. You have to learn how to cause your idea to become his idea, earn his trust and have him vote for you as his leader. Right-brain horses need you to be a calm, confident leader and friendly teacher, and here’s the best one: Horses don’t care how much



education



you know until they know how much you care. They'll do anything for you once you've gained their confidence.

RIGHT-BRAIN INTROVERT – Slow down!

I'll never forget one of the first reactions from a student after she got her Horsenality/Humanity™ Match Report. It revealed her horse as Right-Brain Introvert and she as Right-Brain Extrovert, opposites on the vertical scale of the model. She said to me, "I thought I was going really slow, but when I read that report, I really got it. You mean really, REALLY S...L...O...W."

Right-Brain Introverts can be hard to read because they appear calm on the outside, but on the inside their emotions can be running in high gear; you just can't see it. They are highly emotional but really want to please, so they hide their feelings and do their best until all of a sudden the pressure becomes overwhelming and they blow up. This is why Right-Brain Introverts are often hard to read and therefore seem rather unpredictable.

Here's what makes Right-Brain Introverts run away inside themselves:

- Asking too quickly and rushing them
- Carrying on even though they tense up or make a negative gesture (ears back, tail swish, etc.)
- Asking for more and more, which comes across as demanding
- Being rough – having quick hands, quick legs, quick demands

Right-Brain Introverts will teach you to really think about things from the horse's perspective; you know, how Pat says it: "Walk a mile or a minute in your horse's horseshoes." The more opposite your Humanity is from your horse's Horsenality, the harder that is to do. Their t-shirt would say "Don't rush me!"

So how do you get that trust? Slow down, feel more, ask for and wait for permission. A good way to think about it is "red light, green light." When your horse gives you a red light (ears back, tail swish, tension), don't speed through it. Stop or back off for a moment. When you get the green light (licking lips, blinking

eyes, deep sigh, lowered neck, regular breathing), you can continue until the next red light. The key is to watch for those red lights and respond accordingly. When your horse realizes you are actually listening to him and honoring his reactions or opinion, you'll be amazed at how that will change his perception of you and earn you a lot more trust.

A Perspective on Leadership

Let's revisit the model and see what each Horsenality can teach you about becoming a better leader. Simply stated, the leader is the one with the plan and that should be you, not your horse. Some horses assume leadership because they are more dominant, and sometimes because fear takes over and their plan for escape does not include you!

You can spank and spur, you can force and make, you can get it done with tails swishing and ears back. You can risk being bucked off, kicked, bitten, struck, run-off with. You can face danger and frustration and resistance every day from your horse... or you can learn how to be the kind of leader a horse would want to follow.

No Rules Be willing to flex and let go of control a little	Friendliness Show how much you care before you show how much you know
Reverse Psychology Think laterally, have a creative approach	Slow Down! Wait for permission. Earn trust.

References and Study materials:

The Horsenality/Humanity Match Report: A deeply revealing and personalized look at your tendencies and your horse's needs followed by a host of strategies to help you flex your behavior and bring out the best in your horse. Get your access code and have your personalized report within minutes.

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Parelli Connect Spotlight



Name: Katy Evans

Humanality: LBI

Horse's Name: Blues Forever

Horsenality: LBE - but starting to show LBI as we move up through the levels.

Location: Sharnbrook, North Bedfordshire, UK

“Having tasks that you can tick off on Connect has helped me realize that I am doing much more than I thought I was and that I am ready to do some auditions! Connect also keeps me up to date with all the news and events. And most importantly, keeps me connected with instructors!”



Name: Mindy Schroder

Humanality: RBE

Horse's Name: Billy Blaze

Horsenality: LBI/LBE

Location: Ennis, Montana

“Parelli Connect is like having a family at my fingertips. Whenever I am feeling stuck, frustrated, happy or sad Parelli Connect is there full of people that are dedicated to me being the best I can be. The Community on Parelli Connect is all about lifting each other up to make the world a better place for every horse.”



Name: Ron Sill

Humanality: LBI

Horses: Indi (LBI), Red (LBI, hint of RBE), Guinness (RBI), Sky (LBE), and Dipper (LBE)

Location: High Desert Southern California

“Connect works for me because now I have a central place to keep track of most of my experiences, progress and setbacks too. It's a great way to track my journey while I focus on becoming a better horseman.”

If you're an active Connect member, submit your profile details to savvytimes@parelli.com with Parelli Connect Spotlight as the subject.

Ride FORWARD: Using Horsenality™ To Match Energy

Horses are made to move - they need to move - but often we don't move our horses enough. I'm not just talking about daily exercise, although that is a factor. It's also the speed at which they need to move within their gait. It's important to know that many behavioral, control and relaxation issues can actually be caused by not moving horses enough to meet their mental, emotional and physical needs.

Being prey animals, horses don't do well with being held back. Suppression makes a horse claustrophobic, more tense, nervous, resistant, impulsive... it can even affect the regularity of their stride. Believe it or not, you can use movement to relax your horse, and even introverts need to move! Let's look at how.

Don't hold a horse back

When your horse needs to move his feet, don't hold him back, unless of course you need to get control and stop him - which you would do with one rein, bending to a stop*. What I'm talking about here is riding forwards, which will quickly take the anxiousness away. A lot of riders are too tentative in this situation and it is so tempting to hold an impulsive horse back, but it only makes things worse because now you add claustrophobia to the problem. This impulsiveness is most likely to show up in Right-Brain Extroverts, but any horse that gets worried can go there.

When your horse wants to go, simply ride him forwards in a very small circle and almost a little faster than he wants to go. I think of it this way: "You

can go as fast as you want... inside this hula-hoop." Okay, the hula-hoop is about 20-30 feet in diameter, but it is a small circle so that makes it very difficult for the horse to maintain any kind of speed. And because the horse is going forward, he gets calmer... and pretty quickly too. As soon as your horse starts to soften and slow, you soften and slow down too and when they get stronger, rider stronger again. Again, it doesn't take long for the horse to see the goal and want to attain it. Here's the good news: you can take that imaginary hula-hoop with you anywhere you go... the moment your horse starts getting antsy, trot forward quickly on that small circle until they are calm again.

** If you have control issues, remember that it is best and most safely sorted out on the ground. Don't get on a horse that is not calm, connected and responsive. These techniques are for a horse that is ride-able.*

Match the energy – stronger for extroverts, softer for introverts

Some people ride the same way no matter what the horse is doing, but the secret is to match the energy of what your horse is doing. If he is hurrying, ride stronger to match the energy but not add to it. The moment you match it, the horse will get calmer. This is because disharmony is very unsettling for a horse, so when you match them, it feels much better and makes them less emotional. It might take a little practice for you to figure this out, but the once you do it will come easier to you every time you ride.





Thunk-Thunk

What if your horse is introverted and just wants to go slowly everywhere? The worst thing you can do is spur and spank or keep constantly nudging with your legs. Sure, it might produce a surge of energy, but it doesn't last and then you end up nagging the horse in an effort to keep him going. Rather than being mechanical about it (spurs, sticks), let's use psychology. You have to get into the horse's mind or it will never be his idea to go forward.

Here's a great way to do it... I call it "Thunk-Thunk," as opposed to smack-smack or spur-spur. The latter will just annoy your horse and result in him putting his ears back, swishing his tail or even kicking up, so you have to use a clever game to get him thinking about what the right response would be. First squeeze lightly with your seat and thighs, and when you get no response, start tapping with your Carrot Stick or Kidz Stick. But how you tap is critical: You're going to tap

him on the shoulder as lightly as possible, and every three seconds you double it. So first it's really soft tap, then three seconds later double that, then three seconds later double that, then three seconds later double that... do you get the picture? What's really important is you don't get faster as you increase it, because spanking faster brings up emotions, and you don't want that.

Every time your horse chooses to ignore you asking him to go forward, smile and start your thunk-thunk. It's kind of a fun game... not mean and not emotional, and best of all, the horse gets it and begins paying attention to your seat or the lightest tap, and everyone is happier. Just remember to stop the tapping the moment you feel your horse try to put in effort. Pressure motivates, release teaches.

Thunk-Thunk is perfect for Left-Brain Introverts. It's how you engage their mind.

Plink-Plink

This is almost the opposite of Thunk-Thunk. Plink-Plink is gentle and persistent, like dripping water torture where a tap keeps dripping on the same place on your forehead every couple of seconds and drives you crazy! It doesn't get stronger; it just gets your attention – especially after about the 5th or 6th drip. That's how you're going to encourage your horse to put in a little more effort but without bringing up his emotions. Also, unlike Thunk-Thunk, Plink-Plink is on the horse's hip rather than his shoulder.

Here's how to do it. Let's say you want your horse to walk faster, or trot with a bit more effort. First bring a little more life up in your body and then, holding your stick over your thigh, start tapping the side of his hip, methodically, softly, once every three seconds... and don't increase the pressure. At first your horse might swish his tail like it's a fly bugging him, but after several plinks, he'll quicken his pace a little.

The moment he does that, stop the plinking. After several repetitions, your horse will get more in tune with your seat and hold the pace or speed until you ask him to change it.

While this can work for any Horsenality™ in a situation where you want a little more effort but without bringing up their emotions, this is the perfect strategy for Right-Brain Introverts because it doesn't upset them and they can think their way through your request.

What speed is right for your horse?

When I watch riders, I really tune into energy. I try to see if the rider and horse are in harmony or disharmony in terms of their energy. Say the horse is striding strong and energetically but the rider is hesitant or too relaxed, or it's the opposite: the horse is dawdling along and the rider is using a lot more energy than the horse!

The first goal is to perfectly match your horse's way of going when he starts to trot. You'll either need to ride a little stronger with more energy, or soften up and slow down a little until you feel that harmony.

The next goal is to find the right speed for your horse, where he'll use his whole body instead of just moving his legs but tensing his back and neck. When you get the right speed, your horse will stretch his back and lower his neck and that will tell you that you've found the right speed for him.



Some horses (usually extroverts) need to move more energetically forward than you think, but as you gently keep urging him forward until he lowers his neck, he'll actually lengthen his stride and loosen his back. The tension goes and suddenly you'll have a horse that is more relaxed and mentally tuned into you. Experiment with this and you'll see what I mean. If your horse's head goes up when you begin the trot, slowly and gently urge him faster, little by little, and all of a sudden you'll see his neck stretch forward and down, his back come up and he may even start blowing out as he releases tension. Trotting your horse gradually faster is also something introverts will need for their body and balance; that's where Plink-Plink can be very helpful.

Knowing your horse's Horsenality gives you a great head start because you can pretty accurately guess what kind of speed is going to be needed, and you will naturally learn to match your horse's energy and find harmony, right from the start. **ST**

The Three Secrets to Good Balance

Some people have good balance, and some people have bad balance. It didn't take me very long to figure out I was in the "bad" category! I wasn't one of those "natural" riders that just sat there, legs draped, never bouncing...

Sadly, I was the one being picked up out of the mud by my Mum, or off the Polocrosse field by one of my teammates. I just didn't have the balance the other riders in my team had.

This led me to 30 years of research to figure out what they had that I didn't have. It turns out balance isn't just one thing, it's a combination of things. And if we work on that combination, that's when our balance starts to improve really quickly.

We want the best balance we can get as a rider, so we don't make it uncomfortable for the horse to carry us.

How We Balance

We balance in two ways: using our inner ears, and our eyes.

If you find balance exercises virtually impossible with your eyes closed, it's because that's how you balance – by using your eyes. When you close your eyes, and your vision is "unavailable," you can't balance anymore.

As I get older, I'm very careful to sleep with a nightlight. The elderly often stumble at night in the darkness because they don't realize how much they need their eyes for balance.

Three 'Secrets' to Balance

There are two major ridden positions: 1) with our bottom IN the saddle (e.g. sitting trot) and 2) With our bottom OUT of the saddle (e.g. jumping).

A rider might not necessarily be good at balancing in both positions. That's why a show jumper might find it hard sitting the trot, and the cowboy might find it hard to balance over a jump. They're two different skills.

But there is also a third type of balance that very few riders work on, and that's on the ground. And the "Secret to Success" is finding the world's best exercises to work on all three areas of balance.



It's often a surprise at how much we shorten rider's stirrups - our record is 8 holes shorter! When you take your feet out of the stirrups, your stirrup should sit just at or just below the ankle knobble. The longer the stirrup, the more unbalanced the rider - especially in speed sports - but the pleasure rider also puts more weight on the horse's back with a longer stirrup.

Secret 1: Standing

The best exercise I know to improve your balance is to learn to STAND UP in the saddle.

You might just start at halt, but make sure you're standing up FULLY: with your pubic bone right at the front of the saddle, or your thighs up on the buck rolls in a western saddle.

Then, the trick is to learn to stand up and stay still in trot! It's hard when you start, but will only take a couple of weeks of practice, and you'll have it perfect.

Secret 2: Sitting

I've got two great secrets to get us to SIT in the saddle.

One is to ride downhill. It doesn't have to be Mt. Everest - just down the driveway will do. That's how a lot of the great riders really learn to sit.

The other is to carry a weight. I use a feed bag with a bit of soil in it. I carry it in all sorts of positions. I got that from my days of vaulting: lifting and carrying other vaulters. There is nothing that will replace this sensation when it comes to getting you to stick to that saddle. It's brilliant.

Secret 3: On the Ground

The one area riders really don't work on is balance on the ground. But I have the most AMAZING exercise for you: simply brush your teeth on one foot!

Raise one leg, as high out in front of you as you can, and try to keep it there while you brush your teeth. Swap legs if your leg gets tired, but if you do this morning and night, your balance will be amazing. You will not recognize the change! And of course if you close your eyes, it's even better.

Just 5 Minutes a Day...

The extrovert in me can't help but add one last point! The secret the Polocrosse riders had naturally that I had to take the time to learn is to "keep your toes up." It's the seatbelt that's kept me on all these years and I hear that Pat Parelli says the same thing.

Just practicing for five minutes a day is worth it to make your horse more comfortable. My balance and confidence is better than it ever was, even 30 years later...and yours will be too! **ST**

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Second Hand Gold: From Flat to Fabulous with Flows

I remember when I was first introduced to the concept of flow. Neil Pye was teaching in Iowa. Many of the participants had been stuck in Level 1 a while. He did a flow called the Dance at the end of the Level 1 On Line clinic...and it really did look like a dance. I was hooked. It was a fabulous way to put the games together. You too can go from flat to fabulous with flows!

A flow is a combination of games and/or patterns that come—yes—in a flow with the game changing every few seconds. Prepare in your mind how you will change the game and try to make it a seamless change. You can do this both on the ground and riding. This is very similar to Provocative Pattern Integration that Pat speaks of but can be even simpler since it involves the basic Seven Games. In Level 1 clinics we frequently teach students and their horses a flow that incorporates Games 4 through 7. We call it simply “The Flow.” Play the games more or less in order up and down the sequence. It works like this for Level 1/2:

1. Yo-yo the horse out.
2. Send them on a circle.
3. Travel the circle to a fence (pay attention to which direction will be sensible for the horse to go sideways once they get to the fence).
4. Go sideways at the fence for a few steps.

5. Step backward and away from the fence and squeeze the horse back between you and the fence.
6. Drive the HQ as the horse comes through then drive the nose so they are facing the fence.
7. Go sideways a few steps the second direction.
8. Step backward and away from the fence and squeeze the horse back between you and the fence.
9. Allow the horse to continue on a circle and travel the circle back to your starting point.
10. Once there ask the horse to face up and come to you in a forward yo-yo.

By completely this sequence you have played all the purpose games both directions. When you and your horse get good at it, it is a wonderful, quick way to check them out traveling from the pasture to the barn as a preflight routine. For Level 3 and 4 you would use longer ropes, do the sideways without a fence and squeeze over a jump.

I asked my students at the Spring Externship Course to come up with a Freestyle riding flow. Here is what they created:

1. Back away from a barrel.
2. Send the horse on a circle for a lap.
3. Push the hindquarters out and travel the circle sideways for half a lap.
4. Return to the circle for half a lap.
5. Return to the barrel.



education

8



9



10



By using flows, you can add new spark and interest to your On Line and Freestyle play. Put your thinking cap on and remember to PLAY...That means SMILE! **51**

.....
Special thanks to Colorado Parelli Center Spring 2012 extern students Courtney Trares for demonstrating "The Flow," to Chloe Amos for her Freestyle flow and to Sandy Stanway for demonstrating "The Dance." Teri Sprague is a Licensed 4-Star Senior Instructor and has been teaching Parelli since 1995. She is available for Level 1-4 clinics around the nation. She also gives private and group lessons at her home facility near Ft. Collins, CO. She specializes in building confidence in riders and horses using imaginative applications of the psychology, principles and techniques of Parelli Natural Horsemanship. Contact her at ts4pnh@yahoo.com or www.terisprague.com.

Can You... Dance?

.....
Here is the original flow I saw in that Level 1 clinic with Neil Pye. When you can do it with slack in the line, it is a fabulous prerequisite to Liberty!

Standing at the shoulder:



1. Drive your horse on a straight line for a few steps, then...



2. Send the horse slightly ahead so that you can drive the hindquarters until the forequarters start to come past your shoulder—keep walking a straight line as you do this,



3. Help the forequarter to come on around (with the Carrot Stick) for a 360 and continue walking ahead on the same line.

Can You...?

.....
Keeping in mind that a flow should change games/activities every 3-10 seconds, can you create your own On Line and Freestyle flows? How many games can you include? How many ways could you use a single game? How about utilizing some toys?

Send me a video or email me the steps of your creation! ENJOY!

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education

Official Graduates

Congratulations to the new Levels Pathway Graduates!
March 30, 2012 – May 31, 2012

Level 4 Graduates

(On Line + FreeStyle +
Liberty + Finesse)

Klaudia Duif, France
Jamie Evans, USA
Randee Halladay, Canada
Daniel Pfefer, USA
Sigrid Ritland, Norway
Sarah Wearing, UK

Level 4 On Line Graduates

Michael Alway, USA
Silvia Boniforti, Italy
Jan Brooks, USA
Janine Buckley-Hewing,
UK
Ellen Carroll, USA
Petra Christensen, USA
Nell Cruse, UK
Bonny Curless, USA
Anouk Dahrs, Nether-
lands
Mandy Dederer, Australia
Christine Fortin, Canada
Marianne Gotfredsen,
Denmark
Sarah Grimm, USA
Carole Hofmann, USA
Liz Jones, UK
Anna Knapinska, USA
Fran Latane, USA
Claudia Ledig, Switzer-
land
Tori Murray-Elley,
New Zealand
Carrie Negley, USA
Danielle Ostrem, USA
Ryan Pfouts, USA
Nancy Richmond, USA
Christa Roser, USA
Molly Sanders, USA
Keri-Lynn Standish,
Canada

Level 4 FreeStyle Graduates

Ted Axton, USA
Cynthia Bower, USA
Adele Buckley, Ireland
Ruth Carlyle, UK
Tracey Duncan, UK
Erin Fowle, USA
Mel Hare, USA
Nereda Haslam, Australia
Liz Jones, UK
Maria Lee, USA
Sam Matheson, USA
Tori Murray-Elley,
New Zealand
Carlos Osorio, USA
Ryan Pfouts, USA
Tom Pompei, USA
Marc Rea, USA
Dawn Roth, USA
Justyna Rucinska, Poland
Jody Ruysen, UK
Emma Smith, Australia
Kailaan Walker, Canada

Level 4 Liberty Graduates

Michael Alway, USA
Jo Bates, UK
Sarah Berg, USA
Sarah Brady, Ireland
Elizabeth Cameron, UK
Christine Fortin, Canada
Pat Hotchkiss-Stahl, USA
Liz Jones, UK
Carol Lowery, USA
Sarah Merry, USA
Carrie Negley, USA
Julie Payne, USA
Ryan Pfouts, USA
Tom Pompei, USA
Dawn Roth, USA
Molly Sanders, USA
Kailaan Walker, Canada

Ellen Weyant, USA

Level 4 Finesse Graduates

Sarah Berg, USA
Ellen Carroll, USA
Rebecca Harris, UK
Micaela Johnson, USA
Tori Murray-Elley,
New Zealand

Level 3 Graduates

(On Line + FreeStyle +
Liberty)
Linn Bjerkseth, Norway
Gerry Cotterell, UK
Mckensey Courtney, USA
Mandy Dederer, Australia
Dorinda Dorsett, USA
Lucy Douglas, USA
Kate Emmerson, UK
Irene Fletcher, Australia
Karen Gagliano, USA
Hayley Haar, Australia
Henrike Heitger,
Germany
Karissa Hendricks, USA
Hilary Jackson, Australia
Carol Lake, Australia
Kiana Minkie, Australia
Susan Neilsen, Australia
Amy Parish, Australia
Sarah Pitcher, Australia
Jennifer Span, Austria
LeAnn Thacker, USA
Maria Tomlins, Australia
Juliette Watt, USA
Sharon Weimer, USA

Level 3 On Line Graduates

Dana Abernathy, USA
Caroline Andrews, UK
Elizabeth Badger,
Australia

Sandy Beardmore,
New Zealand
Valerie Bennett, UK
Emily Bibb, USA
Gemma Caddy, UK
Carla Callahan, USA
Kathy Caylor, USA
Logan Cross, USA
Vickie Crouch, USA
Kath Deas, UK
Susan Durjan, USA
Elaine Elms, Australia
Martha T. Foster, USA
Petra Graak, Germany
Faye Gregory, USA
Sara Haley, UK
Kathy Harris, USA
Cynthia Hooper, Australia
Petra Hotz, Australia
Barbara Kruger-Davis,
Australia
Molly Legrand, USA
Mackenzie Lewis, USA
Amanda Loy, Australia
Fiona Lyall, UK
Jason Metelli, Australia
Loren Moore, USA
Mary Ann Moore, USA
Barbara Murray, UK
Geraldina Orlando, Italy
Julie Payne, USA
Linda Richards, USA
Laurene Rose, USA
Ashleigh Rowlands,
Australia
Tasha Scott, USA
Roberta Stevenson,
Canada
Kezia Sullivan, UK
Linda Threlkeld, USA
Nicky Van Der Sluis,
Netherlands
Colleen Winslow, USA
Corinna Wolff, Germany

Mandi Woodley, Australia
Amanda Woszczak, USA

Level 3 FreeStyle Graduates

Dana Abernathy, USA
Sara Juul Ammentorp, Denmark
Bill Armon, USA
Bill Avery, USA
Elizabeth Badger, Australia
Sandy Beardmore, New Zealand
Tania Boehmer, Germany
Sarah Brummer, Germany
Elaine Elms, Australia
Cindee Hage, Australia
Sue Ellen Haning, USA
Giselle Hutchings, UK
Jordan Kasprzak, USA
Jeanne Knapp, USA
Fiona Lyall, UK
Joan Mahaffey, USA
Dennis Miesner, USA
Sandy Miesner, USA
Joy Price, USA
Ima Pruden, USA
Cynthia Sherrill, USA
Shaylee Slater, USA
Margaret Stevenot, USA
Julie Taylor, USA

Level 3 Liberty Graduates

Caroline Andrews, UK
Margo Barrett, USA
Kevin Bolf, USA
Carla Callahan, USA
Noreen Campbell, USA
Kathy Caylor, USA
Logan Cross, USA
Kathy Harris, USA
Gigi Iacovelli, USA
Charlotte Kiefner, Germany
Daniela Kuntze, Germany
Katharina Leutwiler, Switzerland
Colleen Murphy, USA
Barbara Murray, UK
Ashleigh Rowlands, Australia
Judy Saunders, Canada
Kristyn Schlavin, USA
Fulvia Sommovigo, Italy
Johnnie Strader, USA
Lori Streeter, USA
Katarina Tawiri, New Zealand
Julie Taylor, USA
Carol White, USA
Elizabeth Woodson, USA

Level 2 Graduates

(On Line + FreeStyle)
Barbara Baron, USA

Mandy Bartholomew, UK
Villa Bartlett, USA
Ralph Bergquist, USA
Jade Bond, USA
Sandy Brown, USA
Rebecca Burnell, USA
Veronica Cooper, USA
Jacki Davidson, USA
Margo Eidson, USA
Marie-Melanie Gibert, France
Wendy Hamilton, USA
Marianne Hogmo, Norway
Eike Holtschmit, Germany
Sandy Hushagen, Canada
Giselle Hutchings, UK
Madeleine Johansson, Sweden
Debbie Jones, USA
Frank Kline, USA
Luann Lackey, USA
Lori Lee, Canada
Fiona Leitch, UK
Michelle Lott, Australia
Heather Marshall, UK
Anne Mather, UK
Diane Mckay, New Zealand
Michaela Motz, Germany
Colleen Murphy, USA
Quiara Nichols, USA
Brigid Pajunen, USA
Beth Pollard, Ireland
Emilie Raymond, Canada
Joanna Ross, UK
Katharina Schneidhofer, Austria
Beverly Simmons, USA
Denise Skeen, USA
Fiona St. Clair, Australia
Bee Stuart, USA
Julie Taylor, USA
Deb Teubert, USA
Karen Thomas, USA
Jennifer Tod, Australia
Blandina Valenzuela, USA
Stacie Wadsworth, USA
Mark Weiler, USA
David Wieland, Australia
Dionne Wild, Australia
Elizabeth Woodson, USA

Level 2 On Line Graduates

Martina Altmicks, Germany
Joke Anthonis, Belgium
Roy Baxter, USA
Anja Borst, Netherlands
Caroline Brocklehurst, UK
Adrienne Clark, USA
Suzanne Cochrane, UK
Kim Corkins, USA

Rachael Courant, USA
Beth Courtney, USA
Cynthia Dale, USA
Christine Dickson, USA
Kerrie Diebels, USA
Sandra Ellis, USA
Nancy Enslin, USA
Chelsi Ewing, USA
Maria Frojd, Sweden
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Katie Neiman, USA
Margaret Owens, Australia
Kathy Pennenga, USA
Wendy Pickering, UK
Regina Preciado, USA
Sheila Reiboldt, USA
Alex Robinson, UK
Justine Robley, USA
Michelle Schramm, USA
Caroline Schwar, Germany
Fiona Sykes, UK
Lisa Thompson, USA
Cheryl Tobey, USA
Beverley Upton, UK
Frederieke Van Nes, Netherlands
Claire Warren, USA

Level 2 FreeStyle Graduates

Mary Renee Bradford, USA
Becky Friend, USA
Janet Hubregtse, Netherlands
Misty McCafferty, USA
Francesca Sfulcini, Italy
Kathy Shelley, USA
Anne Svensson, Sweden

Level 1 Graduates

(On Line)

Marloes Benschop, Netherlands
Angela Braun, Germany
Patricia Brobeck, Sweden
Missy Clapp, USA
Dan Cox, USA
Dorthe Drewsen, Sweden
Natasha Dyson, New Zealand
Hege Louise Evertsen,

Norway
Marisa Gatto, New Zealand
Claudia Grellmann, Germany
Wies Groeneveld, USA
Josef Hattenberger, Austria
Veronica Hill, UK
Gabrielle Hornblow, New Zealand
Sharon James, UK
Kim Johnson, Australia
Claire Laurens, France
Bev Lawrence, Australia
Joanna Lo, Canada
Kirsty Louise McCulloch, UK
Mallory McCullouch, USA
Marie McCullouch, USA
Jessica McNab, Australia
Fiona Morrow, UK
Sarah Parrott, UK
Sara Persoff, USA
Tina Pusic, Croatia/Hrvatska
Josee Rheume, Canada
Dianne Robertson, Australia
Kerry Rushbrooke, UK
Bridget Sheeran, Ireland
Carol Smith, UK
Tammy Stott, Australia
Sibyl Stringer, USA
Tina Taklo, Sweden
Deb Underwood, Australia
Manuella Van Den Brande, Belgium
Pam Voorhees, USA
Bryce Wallace, USA
Shai Wallace, USA
Sharon Watson, UK
Steve Wegner, USA
Fieke Wiersema, Netherlands
Mirren Wright, UK
Jean Wyer, USA

We would also like to congratulate Harriet Laurie and all of the graduates from The Horse Course in the UK! Every effort is made to ensure this list is accurate. If for any reason we have missed your name, or misspelled it, please let us know right away by emailing auditions@parelli.com. **51**

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